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Basic Radio Propagation Predictions

FOR JUNE 1954
Three Months in Advance

Issued March 1954

CRPL Series D



Number 115

The Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

The propagation of radio waves over long distances depends on their reflection from the ionosphere, the electrically conducting layers in the earth's upper atmosphere. The characteristics of these layers are continually changing. For regular and reliable communication, it is therefore necessary to collect and analyze ionospheric data from stations all over the world in order that predictions of usable frequencies between any two places at any hour can be made. During the war, the United States Joint Communications Board set up the Interservice Radio Propagation Laboratory at the National Bureau of Standards to centralize ionospheric work and predictions for the Armed Forces of the United States.

On May 1, 1946, this activity returned to peacetime status as the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards. Designed to act as a permanent centralizing agency for propagation predictions and studies, analogous in the field of radio to the reports of the Weather Bureau in the field of meteorology, the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory was established in cooperation with the many Government agencies vitally concerned with communication and radio propagation problems. These agencies are represented on an Executive Council which guides the work of the Laboratory; included are the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Department of State, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Weather Bureau. In addition, industry is represented by a member of the Institute of Radio Engineers and a member of the Radio Manufacturers Association, while the Carnegie Institution of Washington serves in an advisory capacity and the Research and Development Board has designated an observer.

The Central Radio Propagation Laboratory receives and analyzes data from approximately 75 stations located throughout the world, including 11 domestic and 7 overseas stations which are operated either directly or under contract by the National Bureau of Standards. Ionospheric data and predictions are disseminated to the Armed Forces, commercial users, scientists, and laboratories. The basic ionospheric research of the Laboratory includes theoretical and experimental studies of maximum usable frequencies, ionospheric absorption, long-time variations of radio propagation characteristics, the effects of the sun on radio propagation, and the relation between radio disturbance and geomagnetic variation. In the microwave field, the Laboratory is investigating the relation between radio propagation and weather phenomena, as well as methods by which predictions can be made and radio communications improved in this portion of the radio-frequency spectrum. Another phase of the Laboratory's work is the development and maintenance of standards and methods of measurement of many basic electrical quantities throughout the entire frequency spectrum.

Basic Radio Propagation Predictions

The CRPL Series D, Basic Radio Propagation Predictions, is issued monthly as an aid in the determination of the best sky-wave frequencies over any path at any time of day for average conditions for the month of prediction, 3 months in advance. Charts of extraordinary-wave critical frequency for the *F*2 layer, of maximum usable frequency for a transmission distance of 4,000 km, and of percentage of time occurrence for transmission by sporadic *E* in excess of 15 Mc, for a distance of 2,000 km, are included.

Beginning with the December 1949 issue (CRPL-D64) the CRPL-D series, "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," is available on a purchase basis from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., on the following terms:

Single Copy ----- 10 cents

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(To foreign countries, \$1.25)

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Address subscriptions, remittances, and all inquiries relating thereto, to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Sinclair Weeks, Secretary

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

A. V. Astin, Director



MARCH 1954

CRPL Series D

Number 115

BASIC RADIO PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS

For JUNE 1954

Three Months in Advance

Introduction

The CRPL-D series, "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," issued by the National Bureau of Standards, contains contour charts of F_2 -zero-MUF and F_2 -4000-MUF for each of the three zones, W, I, and E, into which the world is divided for the purpose of taking into consideration the variation of the characteristics of the F_2 layer with longitude (figs. 1 to 6); the world-wide contour chart of E -2000-MUF (fig. 7); the contour chart of median fE_s (fig. 8); and the chart showing percentage of time occurrence for E_s -2000-MUF in excess of 15 Mc (fig. 9).

Methods for using these charts are given in Circular 465 of the National Bureau of Standards, entitled "Instructions for the Use of Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," and available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., price 30 cents (foreign 40 cents). Requests for this manual and for the basic predictions from members of the Army, Navy, or Air Force should be sent to the proper service address as follows. *For the Army:* Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: SIGOL-2. *For the Navy:* The nearest Registered Publication Issuing Office. *For the Air Force:* Director of Communications, Department of the Air Force, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: AFOAP.

Following figure 9 of each issue, sets of auxiliary figures (nos. 1, 2, 11, 12 of NBS Circular 465) or forms CRPL-AF and AH are given in rotation, two in each issue of CRPL Series D. They are necessary or useful for the preparation of tables and graphs of MUF and FOT (OWF), as explained in NBS Circular 465.

The charts in this issue were constructed from data through December 1953, together with the predicted smoothed 12-month running-average Zürich sunspot number 9, centered on June 1954.

Attention is invited to the blank form at the end of this publication, for use in reporting the accuracy of the predictions of MUF and FOT (OWF) as given in this report. Communications should be addressed to Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

Information concerning the theory of radio-wave propagation, measurement technics, structure of the ionosphere, ionospheric variations, prediction methods, absorption, field intensity, radio noise, lowest required radiated power and lowest useful high frequency is given in Circular 462 of the National Bureau of Standards, "Ionospheric Radio Propagation." This circular is available from the Superintendent of Documents, price \$1.00 (foreign, \$1.25).

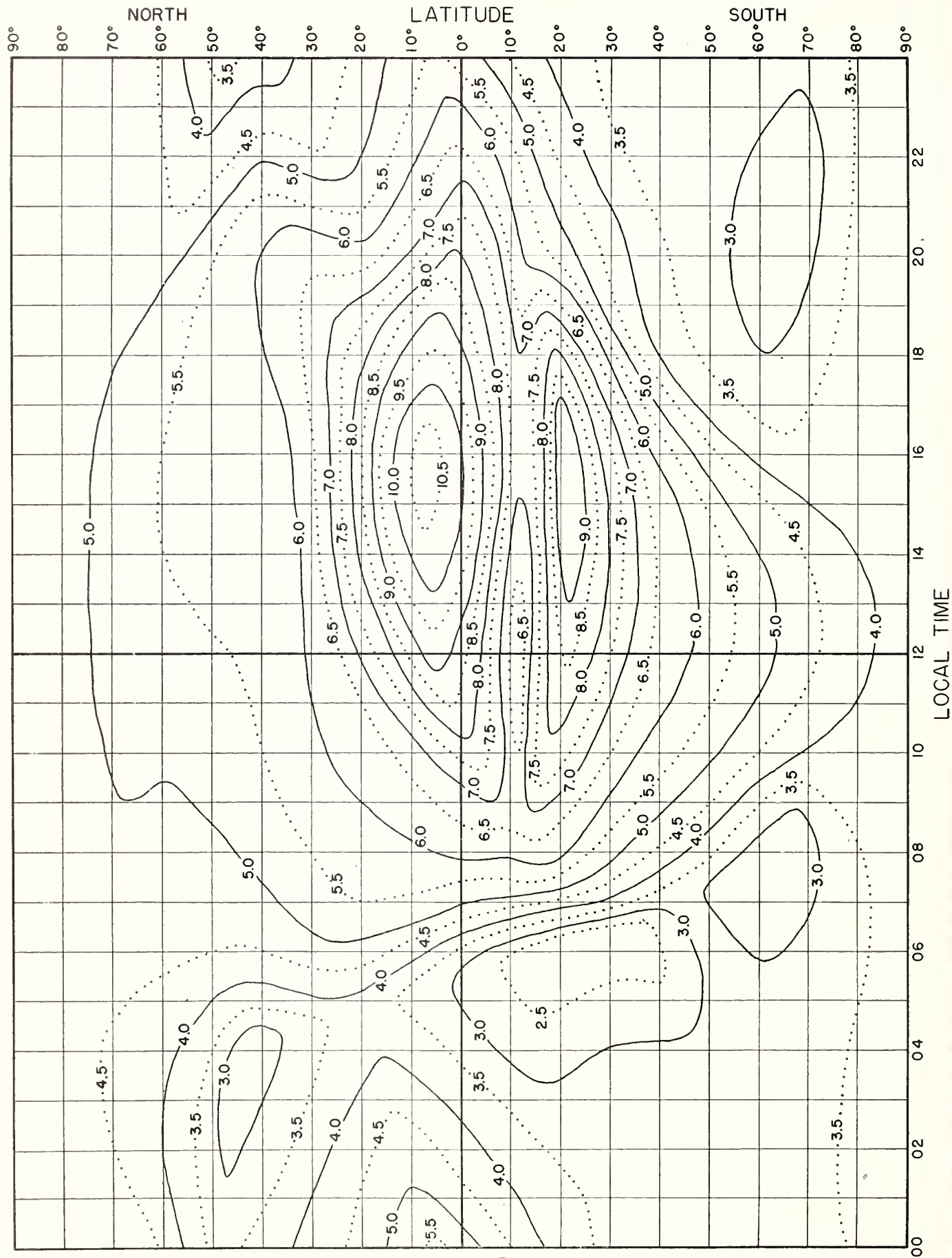


FIG. 1 F2-ZERO-MUF, IN Mc, W ZONE, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

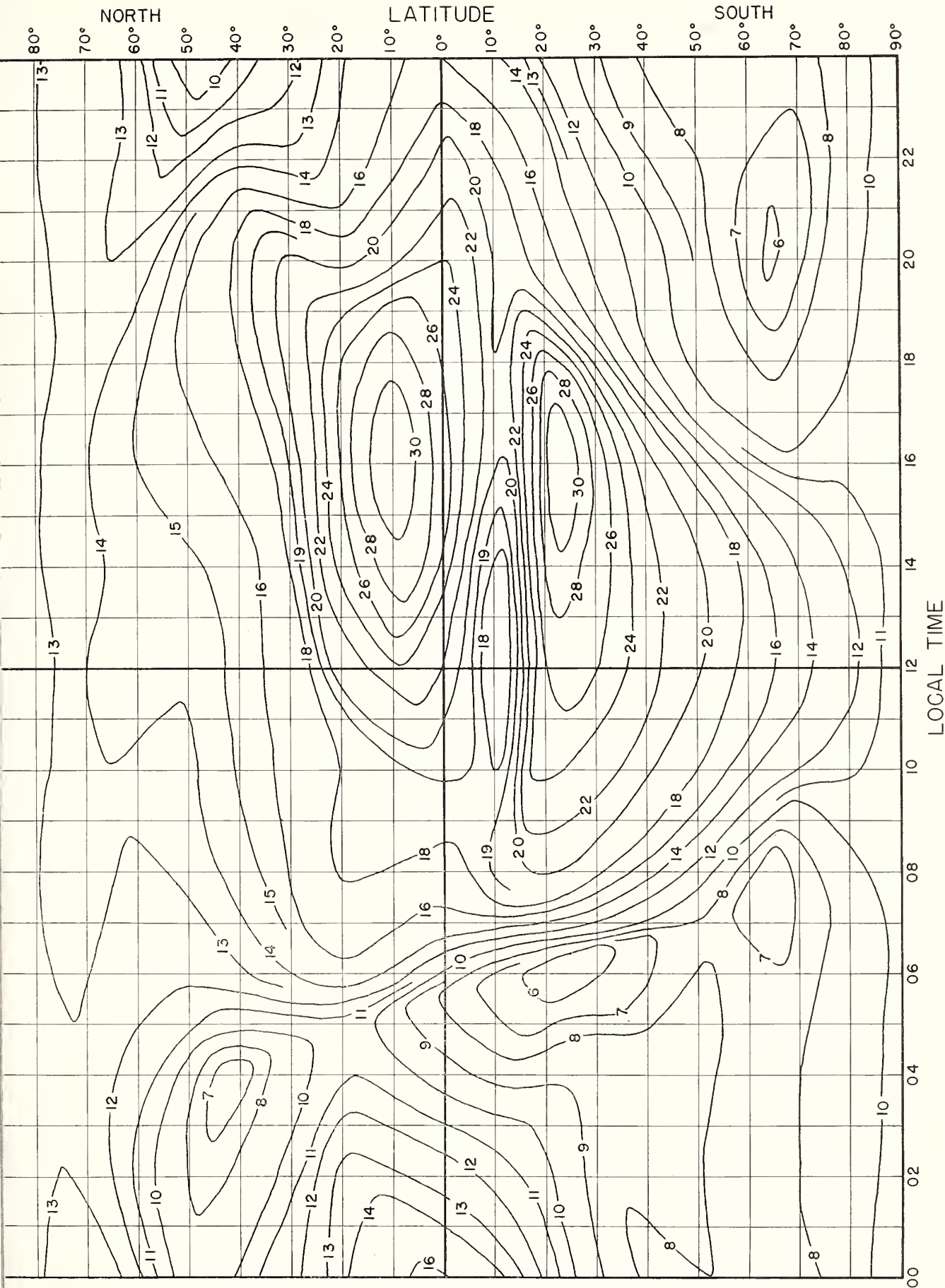


FIG. 2 F2-4000-MUF, IN Mc, W ZONE, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

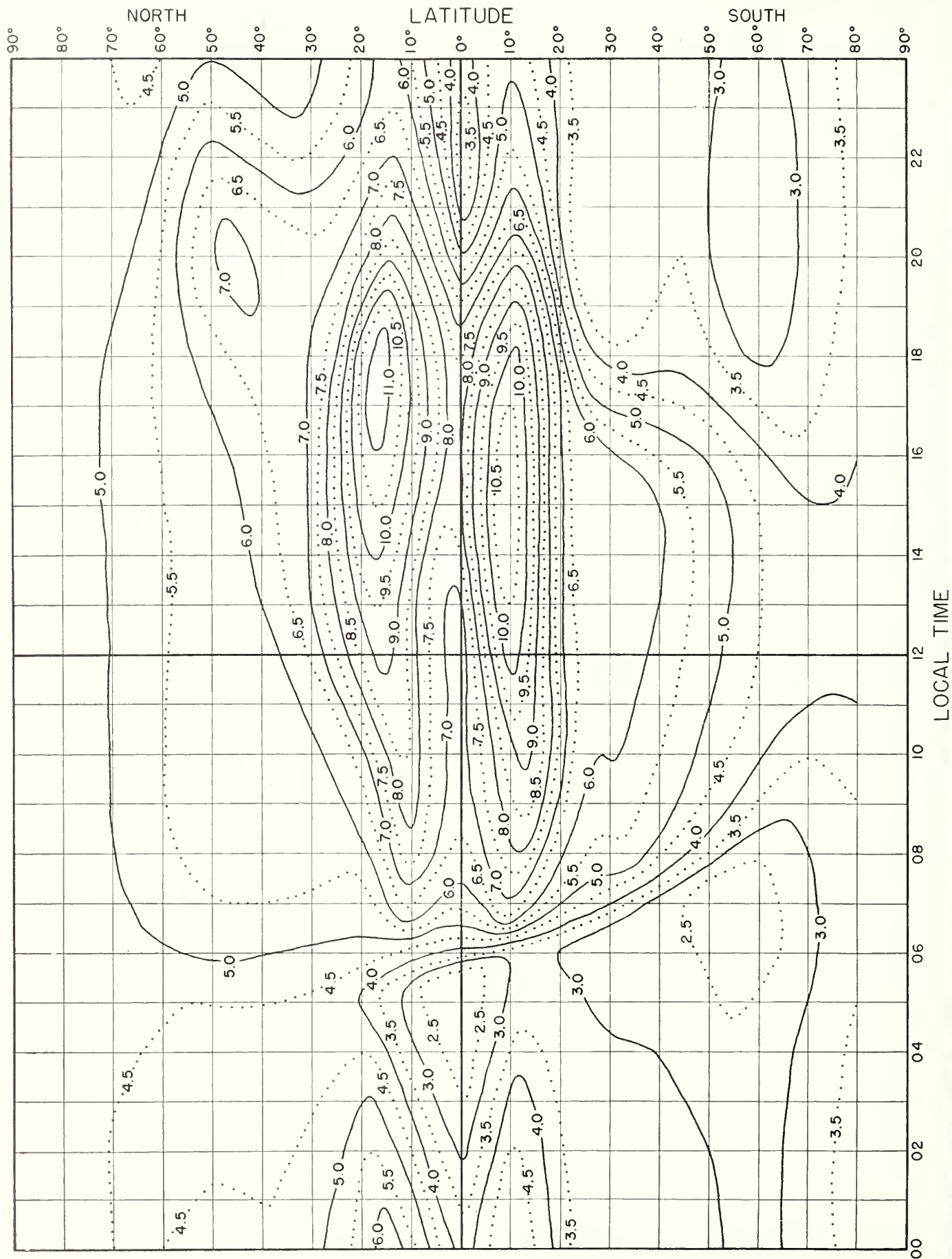


FIG 3. F2-ZERO-MUF, IN Mc, I ZONE, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

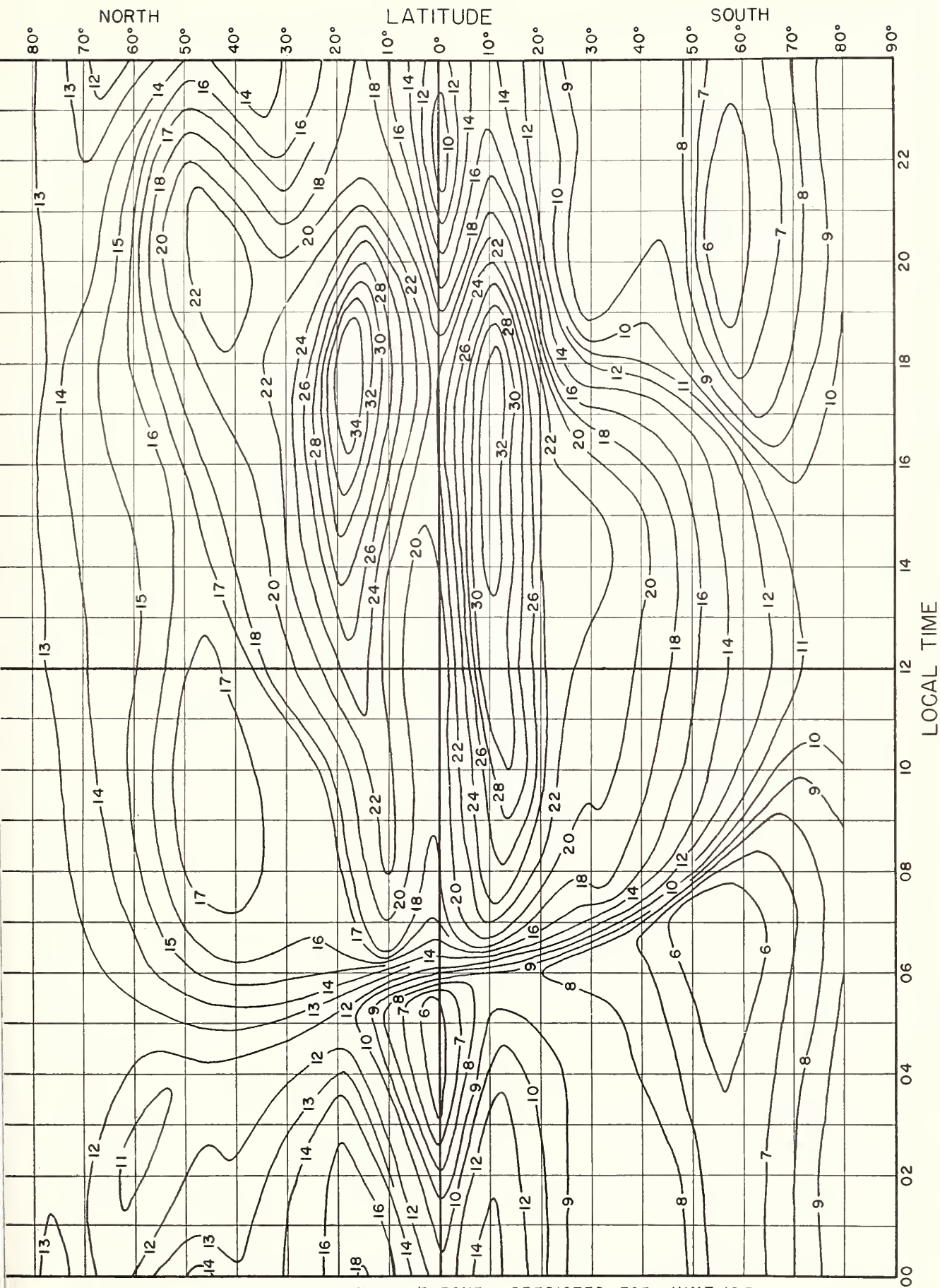


FIG. 4. F2-4000-MUF, IN Mc, I ZONE, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

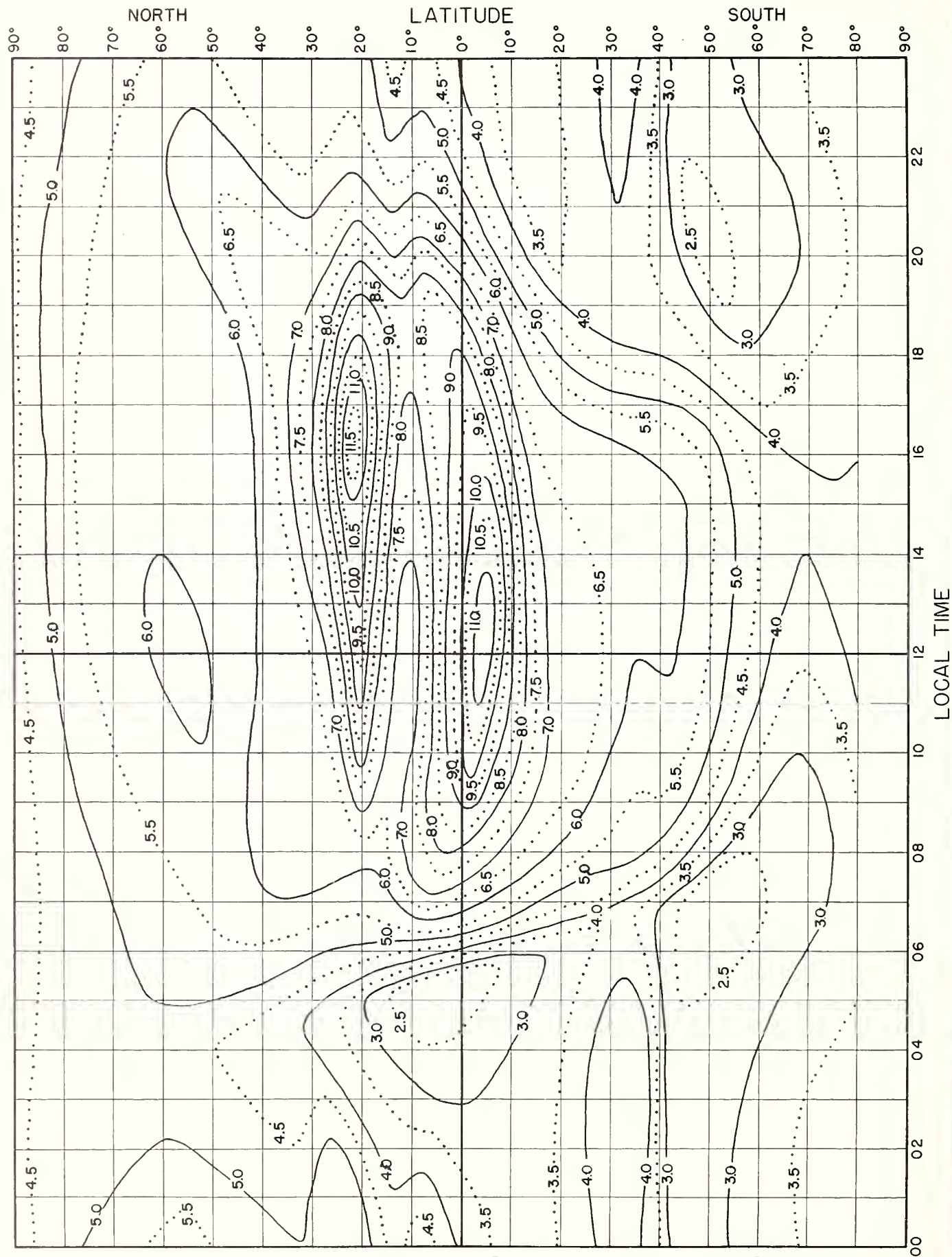


FIG. 5 F2-ZERO-MUF, IN Mc, E ZONE, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

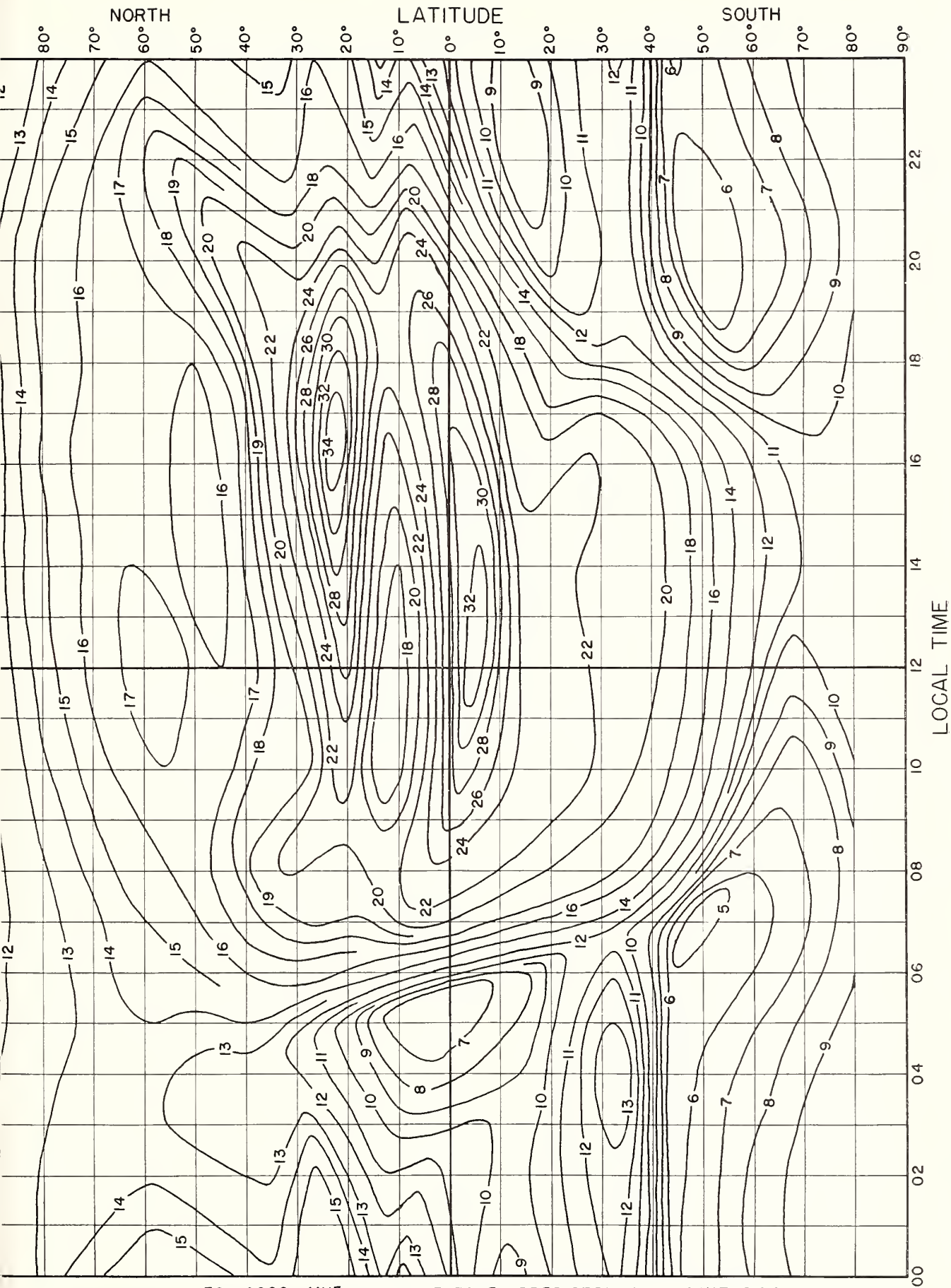


FIG. 6. F2-4000-MUF, IN Mc, E ZONE, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

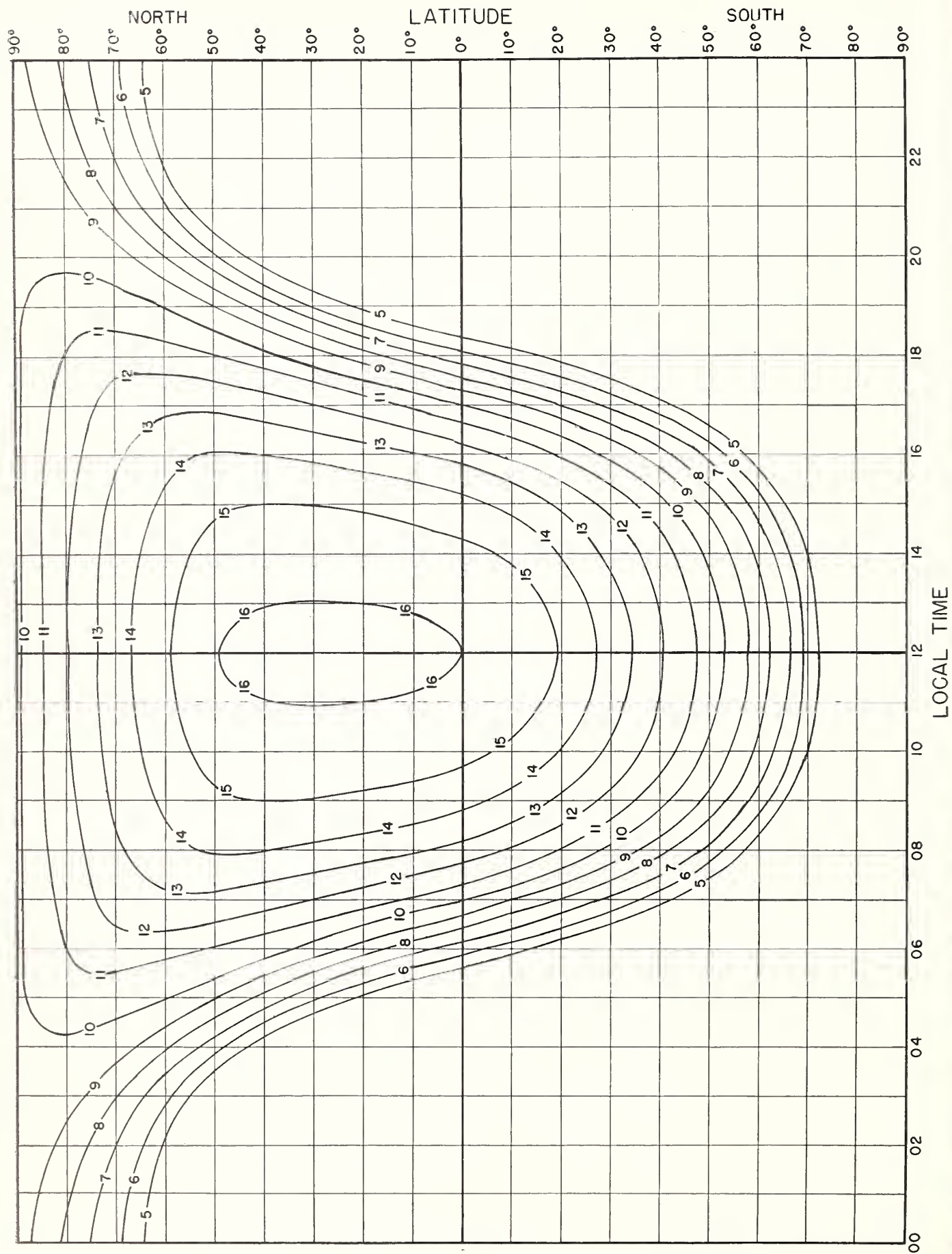


FIG. 7. E-2000-MUF, IN Mc, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

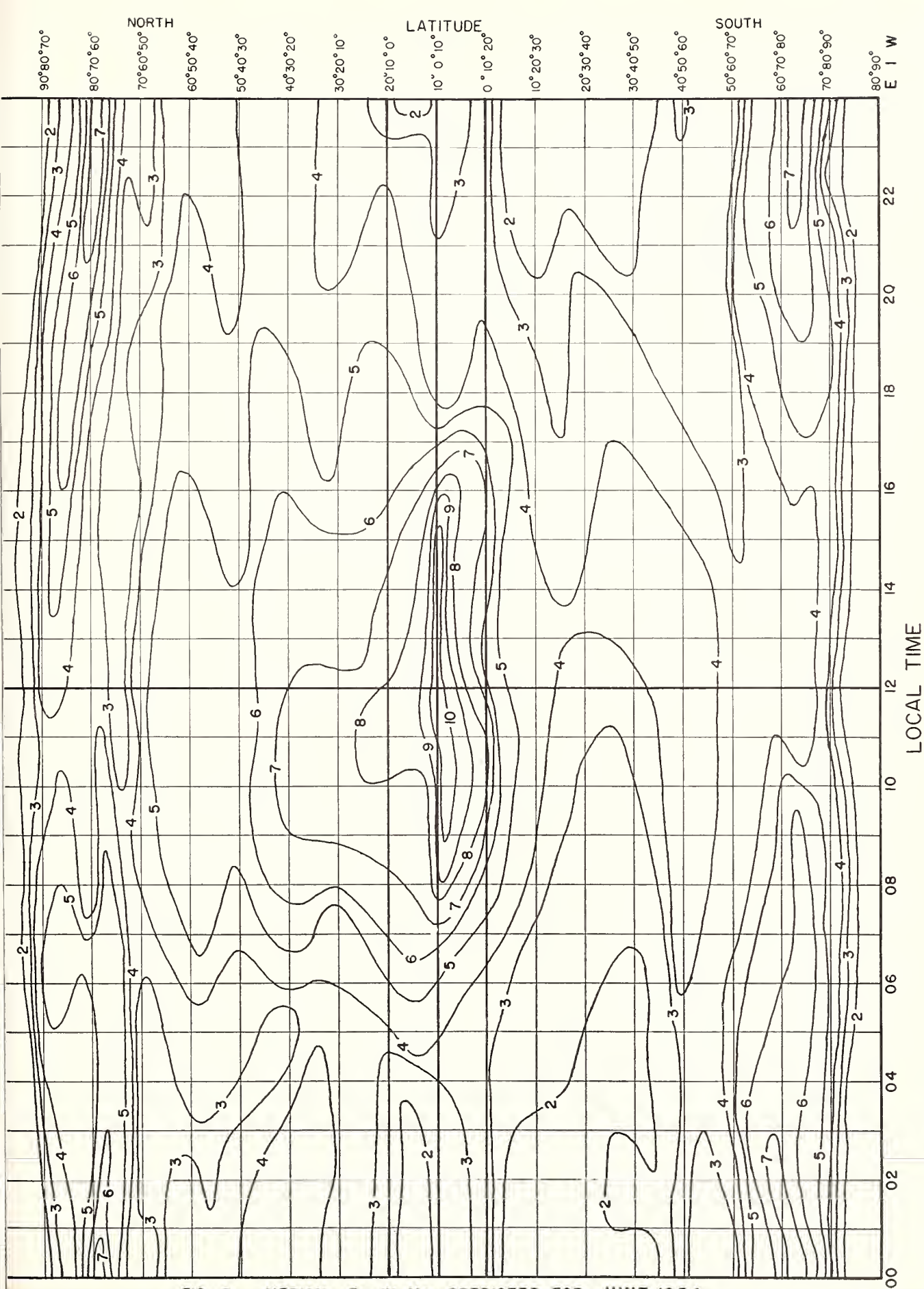


FIG. 8. MEDIAN E_s , IN Mc, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

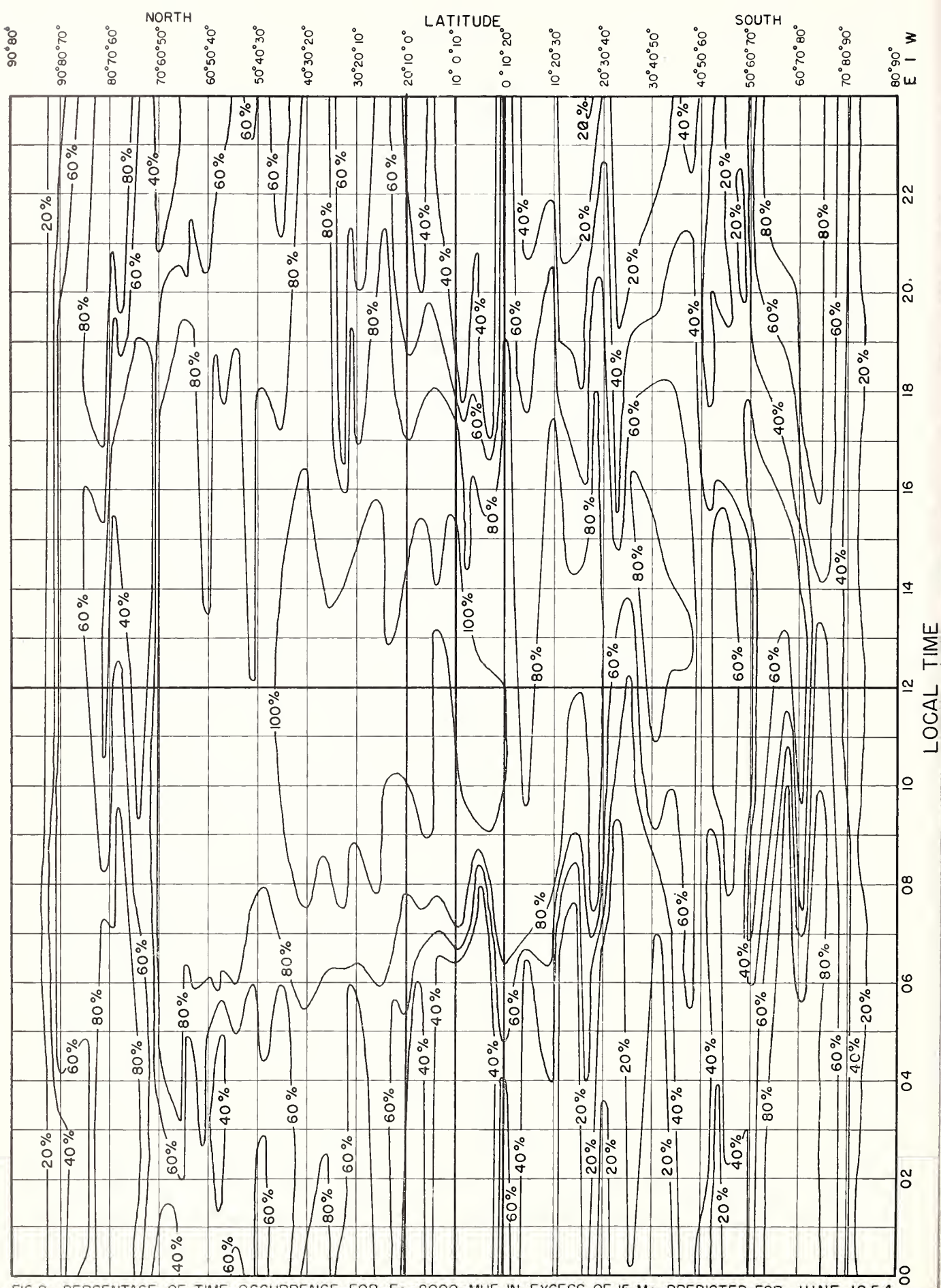


FIG 9. PERCENTAGE OF TIME OCCURRENCE FOR Es-2000-MUF IN EXCESS OF 15 Mc, PREDICTED FOR JUNE 1954

MUF - FOT WORK SHEET FOR PATHS 4000 KM OR LESS

Date _____

From _____ To _____ Distance, _____ km Zone _____ Predicted for _____ 19 _____

Note: All frequencies are in megacycles.

GCT	fEs	Es 2000- muf	E-layer 2000- muf	F ₂ zero- muf	F ₂ 4000- muf	Es-muf far Path	E-F ₁ -muf far Path	F ₂ -muf far Path	Es 2000- fot	Es-fot far Path	E-fot far Path	F ₂ -fot far Path	MUF for Path	FOT for Path
	a Scale	b 5 X a	c Scale	d Scale	e Scale	f	g	h	i b-4.0	j	k Same as g	l .85 h	m Highest of f, g, h	n Highest of i, k, l
Procedure														
00														
01														
02														
03														
04														
05														
06														
07														
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22														
23														
Done by														
Checked														

NOTE: FOT IS THE SYMBOL FOR OPTIMUM TRAFFIC FREQUENCY (FORMERLY OWF)

FORM AH

CRPL

MUF - FOT WORK SHEET FOR PATHS OVER 4000 KM.

Date _____

From _____ To _____ Distance, _____ km Predicted for _____ 19____

Note: All frequencies are in megacycles.

GCT	A-end						B-end						MUF A-end m Highest of b,c,d	MUF B-end n Highest of h,i,l	FOT A-end o Highest of d,e,f	FOT B-end p Highest of k,l	MUF for PATH q Lower of m,n	FOT for PATH r Lower of o,p
	Pt. A in _____ Zone		Pt. A' in _____ Zone		Pt. B in _____ Zone		Pt. B' in _____ Zone		F2 4000-2000-4000- muf muf fot		F2 4000-2000-4000- muf muf fot							
	fEs Scale pt. A' 5 x o	Es 2000- muf	F2 4000- muf	E-layer 2000- muf	Es 2000- muf	fEs Scale pt. B' 5 x g	Es 2000- muf	F2 4000- muf	E-layer 2000- muf	Es 2000- muf	F2 4000- muf	F2 4000- muf						
Procedure	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l						
00																		
01																		
02																		
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NOTE FOT IS THE SYMBOL FOR OPTIMUM TRAFFIC FREQUENCY (FORMERLY QWF)

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CRPL Reports

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Daily:

Radio disturbance forecasts, every half hour from broadcast stations WWV and WWVH of the National Bureau of Standards.

Telephoned and telegraphed reports of ionospheric, solar, geomagnetic, and radio propagation data.

Semiweekly:

CRPL—J. North Atlantic Radio Propagation Forecast (of days most likely to be disturbed during following month).

CRPL—Jp. North Pacific Radio Propagation Forecast (of days most likely to be disturbed during following month).

Semimonthly:

CRPL—Ja. Semimonthly Frequency Revision Factors For CRPL Basic Radio Propagation Prediction Reports.

Monthly:

CRPL—D. Basic Radio Propagation Predictions—Three months in advance. (Dept. of the Army, TB 11-499-, monthly supplements to TM 11-499; Dept. of the Navy, DNC 13 () series; Dept. of the Air Force, TO 16-1B-2 series.) On sale by Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Members of the Armed Forces should address cognizant military office.

CRPL—F. Ionospheric Data. Limited distribution. This publication is in general disseminated only to those individuals or scientific organizations which collaborate in the exchange of ionospheric, solar, geomagnetic or other radio propagation data or in exchange for copies of publications on radio, physics and geophysics for the CRPL library.

Circulars of the National Bureau of Standards pertaining to Radio Sky Wave Transmission:

NBS Circular 462. Ionospheric Radio Propagation.

NBS Circular 465. Instructions for the Use of Basic Radio Propagation Predictions.

These circulars are on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Members of the Armed Forces should address the respective military office having cognizance of radio wave propagation.

The publications listed above may be obtained without charge from the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, unless otherwise indicated.