

Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS

*for
December
1963*

TB 11-499-9/TO 31-3-28



U.S. DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE
National Bureau of Standards
Number 9/Issued September 1963

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Luther H. Hodges, Secretary



NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

A. V. Astin, Director

Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

Ionospheric Predictions

for December 1963

[Formerly "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," CRPL Series D.]

Number 9

Issued

September 1963

The CRPL Ionospheric Predictions are issued monthly as an aid in determining the best sky-wave frequencies over any transmission path, at any time of day, for average conditions for the month. Issued three months in advance, each issue provides tables

of numerical coefficients that define the functions describing the predicted worldwide distribution of foF2 and M(3000)F2 and maps for each even hour of universal time of MUF(Zero)F2 and MUF(4000)F2.

NOTE: Department of Defense personnel see back cover.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (June 19, 1961).

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National Bureau of Standards

The functions of the National Bureau of Standards are set forth in an Act of Congress, March 3, 1901, as amended. These include the development and maintenance of the national standards of measurement and the provision of means and methods for making measurements consistent with these standards; the determination of physical constants and properties of materials; the development of methods and instruments for testing materials, devices, and structures; advisory services to government agencies on scientific and tech-

nical problems; invention and development of devices to serve special needs of the Government; and the development of standard practices, codes, and specifications. The work includes basic and applied research, development, engineering, instrumentation, testing, evaluation, calibration services, and various consultation and information services. The Bureau also serves as the Federal technical research center in a number of specialized fields.

Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

The Central Radio Propagation Laboratory at Boulder, Colorado, is the central agency of the Federal Government for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on propagation of radio waves at all frequencies along the surface of the earth, in the atmosphere, and in space, and performs scientific studies looking toward new techniques for the efficient use and conservation of the radio spectrum. To carry out this responsibility, the CRPL—

1. Acts as the central agency for the conduct of basic research on the nature of radio waves, the pertinent properties of the media through which radio waves are transmitted, the interaction of radio waves with those media, and on the nature of radio noise and interference effects. This includes compilation of reports by other foreign and domestic agencies conducting research in this field and furnishing advice to government and nongovernment groups conducting propagation research.

2. Performs studies of specific radio propagation mechanisms and performs scientific studies looking

toward the development of techniques for efficient use and conservation of the radiofrequency spectrum as part of its regular program or as requested by other government agencies. In an advisory capacity, coordinates studies in this area undertaken by other government agencies.

3. Furnishes advisory and consultative service on radio wave propagation, on radiofrequency utilization, and on radio systems problems to other organizations within the United States, public and private.

4. Prepares and issues predictions of radio wave propagation and noise conditions and warnings of disturbances in these conditions.

5. Acts as a central repository for data, reports, and information in the field of radio wave propagation.

6. Performs scientific liaison and exchanges data and information with other countries to advance knowledge of radio wave propagation and interference phenomena and spectrum conservation techniques, including that liaison required by international responsibilities and agreements.

Introduction

The "Central Radio Propagation Laboratory Ionospheric Predictions" is the successor to the former "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," CRPL Series D. To make effective use of these predictions, National Bureau of Standards Handbook 90, "Handbook for CRPL Ionospheric Predictions Based on Numerical Methods of Mapping," should be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, price 40 cents. This Handbook includes required additional data, nomographs and graphical aids, as well as methods for the use of the predictions. The Handbook supersedes the obsolete NBS Circular 465.

The basic prediction appears in tables 1 and 2, presenting predicted coefficients for f_oF_2 and $M(3000)F_2$ defining the numerical map functions describing the predicted worldwide variation of these characteristics. With additional auxiliary information, these coefficients may be used as input data for electronic computer programs solving specific high frequency propagation problems. The basic equations, their interpretation, and methods of using the numerical maps are described in two papers by W. B. Jones and R. M. Gallet, "The Representation of Diurnal and Geographic Variations of Ionospheric Data by Numerical Methods," Volume 66D, Number 4, July-August 1962, pages 419-438, and "Methods for Applying Numerical Maps of Ionospheric Characteristics," Volume 66D, Number 6, November-December 1962, pages 649-662, both in the Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards, Section D. Radio Propagation. The predicted numerical map coefficients of tables 1 and 2 may be purchased in the form of a tested set of punched cards. Write to the Prediction Services Section, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado, to arrange for the purchase of the set of punched cards and for further information and assistance in the application of computer methods and numerical prediction maps to specific propagation problems.

The graphical prediction maps, derived from the basic prediction, are provided for those unable to make use of an electronic computer. Figures 1 to 12 present world maps of MUF (Zero) F_2 and MUF (4000) F_2 for each even hour of universal time. Figures 13 to 16 present the same predictions for hours 00 and 12 universal time for the North and South Polar areas. Predicted polar maps for each even hour of universal time may be obtained by special arrangements with the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory. Handbook 90 describes methods for including regular E-F1 propagation. Figure A is a graph of predicted and observed Zürich sunspot numbers which shows the recent trend of solar activity. Table A lists observed and predicted Zürich smoothed relative sunspot numbers and includes the sunspot number used for the current prediction.

Members of the U.S. Army, Navy, or Air Force desiring the Handbook and the Ionospheric Predictions should send requests to the proper service address; for the Navy: The Director, Naval Communications, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C., 20350; for the Air Force: Directorate of Command Control and Communications, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Washington, D.C., 20330. Attention: AFOCCAA. Army personnel should refer to the Handbook as TM 11-499 and to the monthly predictions as TB 11-499-(), predictions for the month of December 1963 being distributed in September 1963 and designated TB 11-499-(9), and should requisition these through normal publication channels.

Information concerning the theory of radio wave propagation and such important problems as absorption, field intensity, lowest useful high frequencies, etc., is given in National Bureau of Standards Circular 462, "Ionospheric Radio Propagation." A revised work is in preparation which will be announced in the Ionospheric Prediction series when available. Additional information about radio noise may be found in C.C.I.R. Report Number 65, "Revision of Atmospheric Noise Data," International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, 1957.

Reports to this Laboratory of experience with these predictions would be appreciated. Correspondence should be addressed to the Prediction Services Section, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado.

Erratum for Table 1: See page following Fig 16.

Table A

Observed and Predicted Zurich Smoothed Relative
Sunspot Numbers

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1952	43 (53)	42 (51)	39 (52)	36 (52)	34 (52)	32 (52)	31 (51)	29 (49)	28 (46)	28 (43)	27 (38)	26 (33)
1953	24 (30)	22 (29)	20 (27)	19 (24)	17 (22)	15 (21)	13 (20)	12 (18)	11 (18)	10 (17)	9 (16)	7 (15)
1954	6 (14)	6 (12)	4 (11)	3 (10)	4 (10)	4 (9)	5 (8)	7 (8)	8 (8)	8 (10)	10 (10)	12 (11)
1955	14 (12)	16 (14)	20 (14)	23 (13)	29 (16)	35 (18)	40 (22)	46 (27)	55 (30)	64 (31)	73 (35)	81 (42)
1956	89 (48)	98 (53)	109 (60)	119 (68)	127 (77)	137 (89)	146 (95)	150 (105)	151 (119)	156 (135)	160 (147)	164 (150)
1957	170 (150)	172 (150)	174 (150)	181 (150)	186 (150)	188 (150)	191 (150)	194 (150)	197 (150)	200 (150)	201 (150)	200 (150)
1958	199 (150)	201 (150)	201 (150)	197 (150)	191 (150)	187 (150)	185 (150)	185 (150)	184 (150)	182 (150)	181 (150)	180 (150)
1959	179 (150)	177 (150)	174 (150)	169 (150)	165 (146)	161 (143)	156 (141)	151 (142)	146 (141)	141 (139)	137 (137)	132 (137)
1960	129 (136)	125 (135)	122 (133)	120 (130)	117 (125)	114 (120)	109 (118)	102 (115)	98 (110)	93 (108)	88 (105)	84 (100)
1961	80 (100)	75 (90)	69 (90)	64 (90)	60 (85)	56 (85)	53 (80)	52 (75)	52 (70)	51 (70)	50 (65)	49 (60)
1962	45 (60)	42 (50)	40 (48)	39 (45)	39 (42)	38 (37)	36 (34)	34 (31)	32 (29)	31 (28)	30 (27)	30 (34)
1963	(31)	(28)	(26)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(23)	(21)	(20)	(18)	(18)	(17)*
1964												

Note: Final numbers are listed through June 1962, the succeeding values being based on provisional data. The predicted numbers are in parentheses.

* Number used for predictions in this issue.

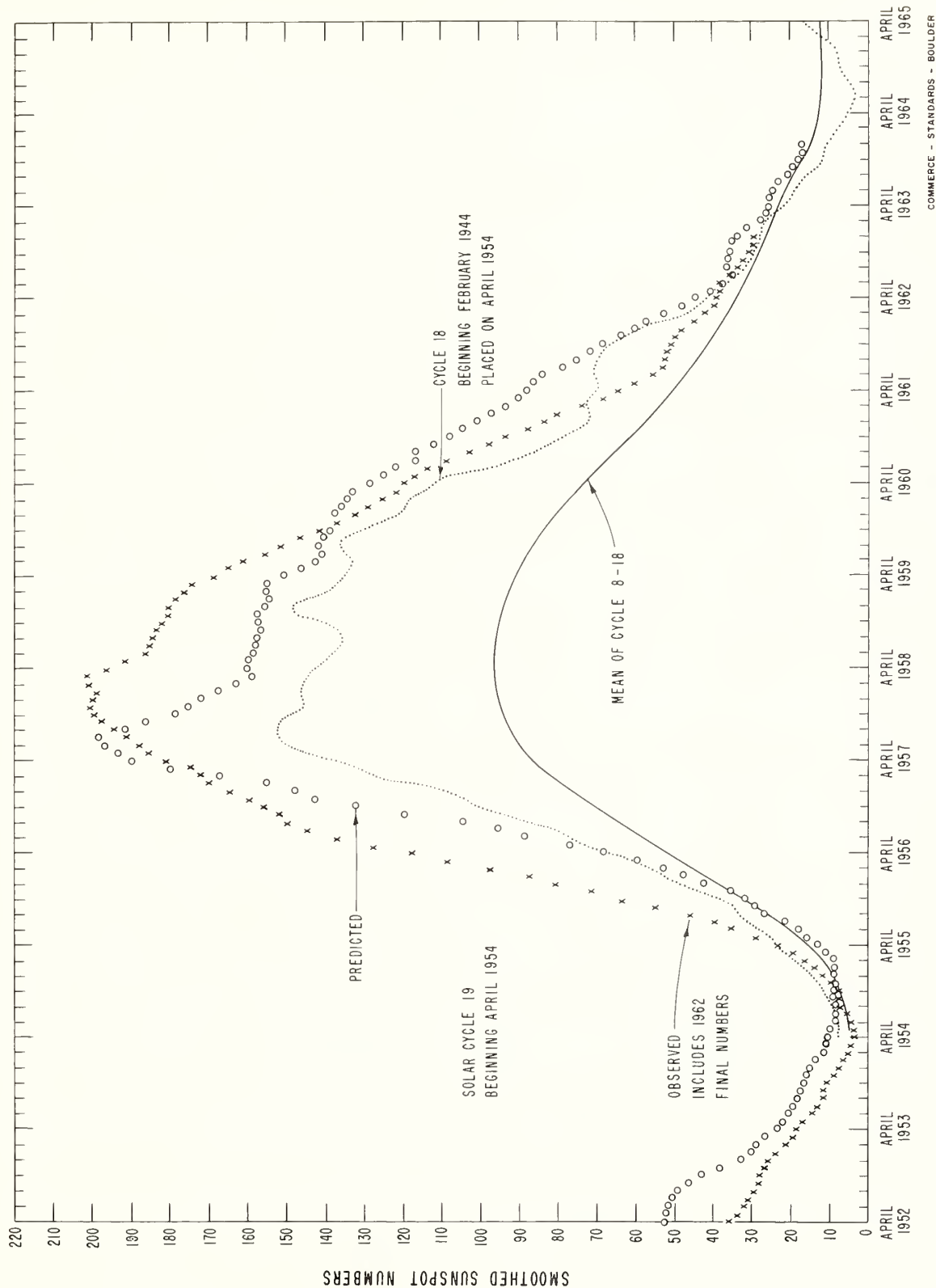


FIG. A. PREDICTED AND OBSERVED SUNSPOT NUMBERS

COMMERCE - STANDARDS - BOULDER

[illegible]

I - Main latitudinal and longitudinal variation; II - First order in longitude, III - Second order in longitude

For each entry the number given by the first eight digits and sign is multiplied by the power of ten defined by the last two digits and sign.

PREDICTED COEFFICIENTS D_{sk} DEFINING THE FUNCTION $\Gamma(\lambda, \theta, \dagger)$ FOR MONTHLY MEDIAN f_2 F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963

TABLE 2

TIME VARIATION

Harmonic	O	I	2	3	4	5	6
K	S	I	2	3	4	5	6
I	0						
0	3.0529609E-00	-7.4897122E-02	-2.7453423E-01	2.0423567E-02	-9.8258440E-02	1.3658496E-02	-3.7028459E-02
1	2.1074066E-01	7.1096686E-02	1.3858490E-01	3.9974941E-02	4.3738720E-02	-1.3421946E-01	-3.4928882E-03
2	9.9106596E-01	5.0521797E-01	2.0290322E 00	3.0994686E-01	6.3172416E-03	-3.7884225E-01	-1.5268425E-01
3	5.0356007E-01	-2.9857132E-01	4.5905215E-01	-5.1478942E-01	-1.4640792E-01	4.4089961E-01	-1.5406790E-01
4	-2.4346058E 00	-8.4271071E-01	-3.2174678E 00	-1.8757209E 00	4.3164421E-01	1.3000740E 00	8.2584238E-01
5	-1.6739824E 00	5.9337033E-01	-9.3638277E-01	1.0036019E 00	4.2561765E-01	-5.3143058E-01	3.6093179E-01
6	1.7702799E 00	5.2369912E-01	2.2142037E 00	2.7411680E 00	-9.9424265E-01	-1.6349684E 00	-1.0073740E 00
7	-1.0992439F 00	-3.4266370E-01	3.9586712E-01	-5.3783701E-01	-2.9013628E-01	2.0587643E-01	-2.0812992E-01
8	-2.8514656E-01	-5.8868806E-02	-8.0623562E-01	-1.3223367E 00	1.0432588E-01	7.1536803E-01	3.9221733E-01
II							
9	-4.4550167E-02	-3.3897282E-02	1.7635363E-02	-1.0377829E-02	2.2248725E-02	1.4674526E-02	8.9349511E-03
10	-7.3661023E-02	-2.9946582E-02	-5.0698293E-02	-1.6784018E-03	3.3546088E-04	2.7206373E-02	5.0437568E-03
11	1.6742433E-01	-8.0694524E-02	1.1349212E-01	-1.4810422E-02	1.5371461E-01	2.5700417E-03	-5.6188275E-02
12	-1.5150526E-01	-1.4024109E-01	-6.8453487E-01	4.5130406E-02	-1.1138610E-01	6.9292642E-03	4.4643263E-02
13	3.6932312E-01	2.0543908E-01	9.3224833E-02	8.9734859E-02	-1.7973024E-01	-2.8864793E-02	2.3123055E-01
14	5.9523584E-01	1.6786324E-01	-5.6448889E-02	-1.0229123E-01	-1.246365E-01	-7.1560279E-02	7.0430871E-02
15	-8.5947272E-01	2.9273133E-01	-2.5662833E-01	2.1622950E-02	-8.8298386E-01	-9.0945632E-03	1.6673845E-01
16	7.3647476E-01	1.1591501E 00	3.0959215E 00	-9.1307983E-02	5.8532013E-01	-1.1740734E-02	-1.8050482E-01
17	-8.9439411E-01	6.4509081E-02	1.7786793E 00	-7.3302119E-02	1.4337433E-01	4.2355165E-02	-1.1244578E 00
18	-1.6079759E 00	1.0317439E-01	2.2390511E 00	1.58680222E-01	7.4649060E-01	7.9228859E-02	-2.3396140E-01
19	1.5177149E 00	-6.8664246E-01	1.0655180E-01	2.3862853E-02	1.6960258E 00	1.3377663E-02	-1.8142186E-02
20	-1.1944502E 00	-2.4505309E 00	-5.7198181E 00	1.0260301E-01	1.1172442E 00	2.0805487E-02	1.1862779E-01
21	8.7190838E-01	-1.1534753E 00	4.4901947E 00	4.2811373E-03	5.2672474E-01	-7.0238957E-02	1.4096950E 00
22	1.7993680E 00	-1.01229954E 00	-5.5414126E 00	1.7174007E-02	-1.6016516E 00	-1.3096998E-01	2.0527877E-01
23	-6.8284808E-01	3.6899720E-01	6.1934528E-02	-1.5165750E-02	1.0263683E 00	-5.7852584E-03	-1.2287740E-01
24	6.7954183F-01	1.5812736E 00	3.4640556F 00	-5.6265138E-02	6.9438341E-01	-1.0270559E-02	2.2570310E-02
25	-3.5191891E-01	9.8779241E-01	-2.8582495E 00	-7.7099838E-03	-5.2210875E-01	3.9121937E-02	-4.7036233E-01
26	-7.8032557E-01	8.5939536F-01	3.5043615E 00	-1.0552111E-02	1.1062210E 00	7.0042948E-02	-4.7149273E-02
III							
27	-1.8750261E-02	4.0073518E-03	2.7807350E-02	2.0224743E-05	6.9618560E-03	2.2479472E-04	-3.2258733E-03
28	-4.9148066E-02	-1.1527013E-02	2.6154893E-02	1.0498127E-04	8.4121017E-03	2.9302281E-04	7.4507314E-03
29	-1.5634379E-01	-6.8529580E-02	7.9589950E-02	2.6301922E-03	-3.0104361E-02	-5.6397429E-04	
30	7.0066454F-02	-1.5452727E-02	-7.5170998F-02	5.6082764E-04	-6.3725911E-02		
31	-3.1051366E-01	-1.2942797E-01	-1.8183080E-01	-8.4102896E-04	-2.3532797E-02		
32	8.2598988E-02	-9.14664673E-02	-3.2006521E-01	-1.1347076E-03	-1.3769222E-03		
33	3.4584005E-01	1.8994354E-01	2.5642985E-01	-3.6646273E-03	6.5585266E-02		
34	-1.1980907E-01	2.0814865E-01	1.1684156F-01		1.5543014E-01		
35		1.4279874E-01	4.4142206F-01				
36	7.2544516E-01	3.4677029E-01	4.56334315E-01				

Harmonic	4	5	6
K	7	9	11
I			
0	6.6727906E-04	1.8572469E-02	-1.1938134E-02
1	-4.2756481E-03	2.4093278E-02	2.8569731E-03
2	-6.5033918E-03	-3.1244038E-02	1.9971457E-02
3	-1.0448699F-03	-2.4735815E-02	-2.2209886E-02

GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION

I - Main latitudinal variation. Mixed latitudinal and longitudinal variation: II - First order in longitude, III - Second order in longitude.
 Notation: For each entry the number given by the first eight digits and sign is multiplied by the power of ten defined by the last two digits and sign.

PREDICTED COEFFICIENTS D_{SK} DEFINING THE FUNCTION $I(\lambda, \theta, t)$ FOR MONTHLY MEDIAN $M(3000)F2$
 DECEMBER 1963

DECEMBER 1963 UT=00

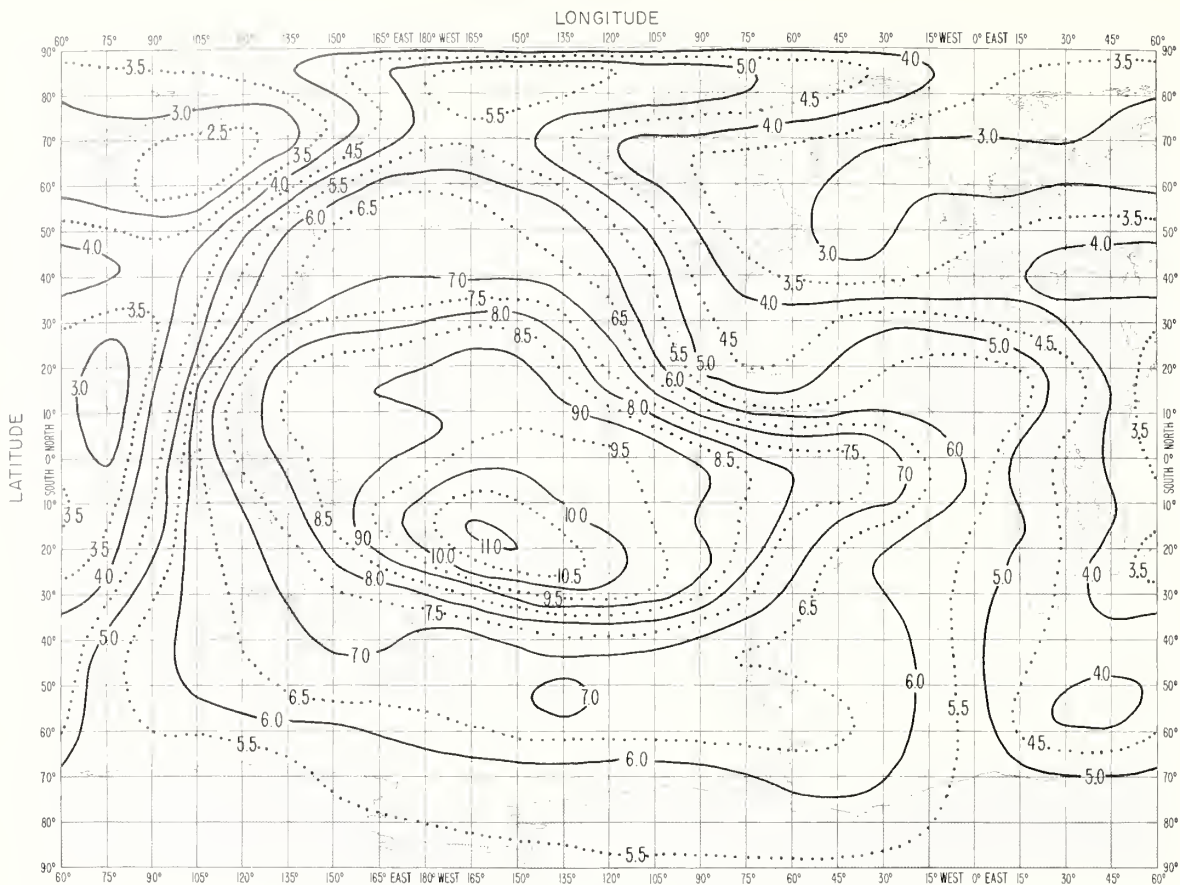


FIG 1 A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

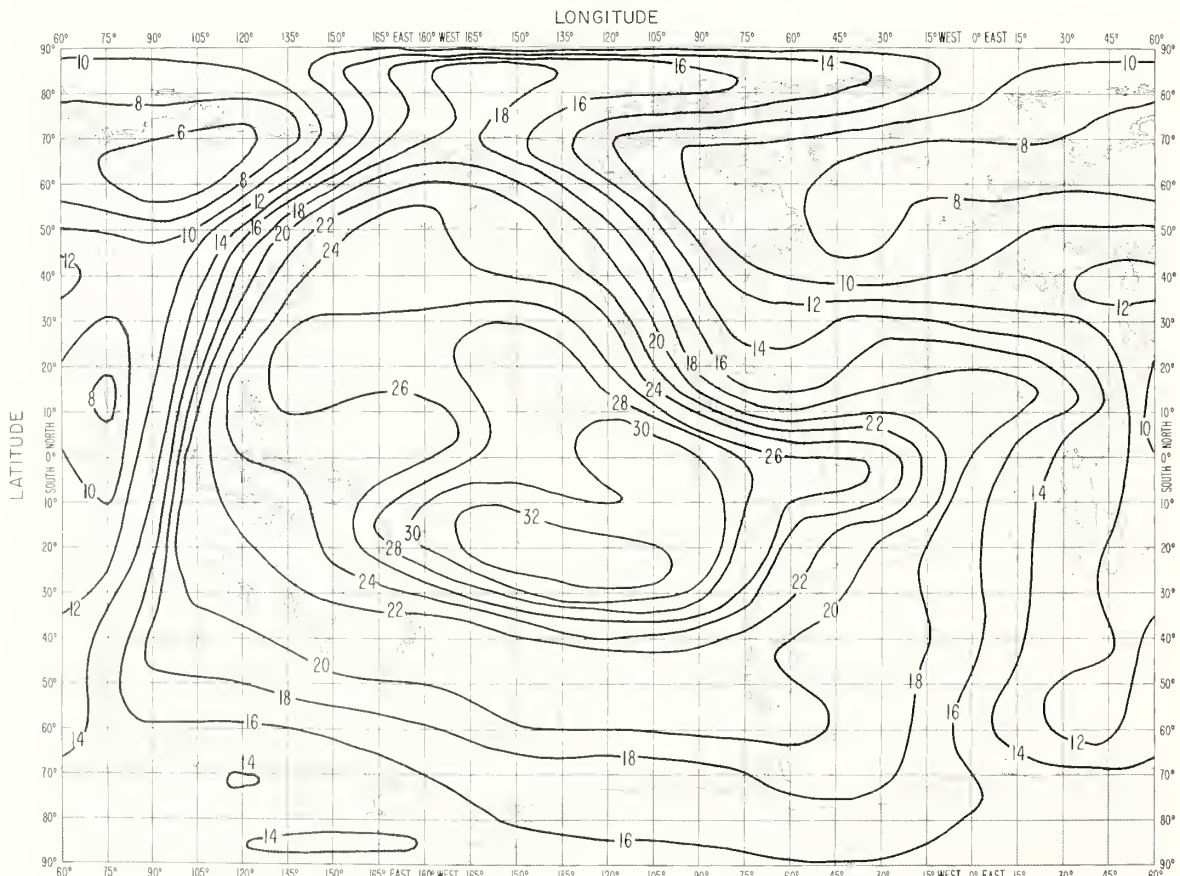
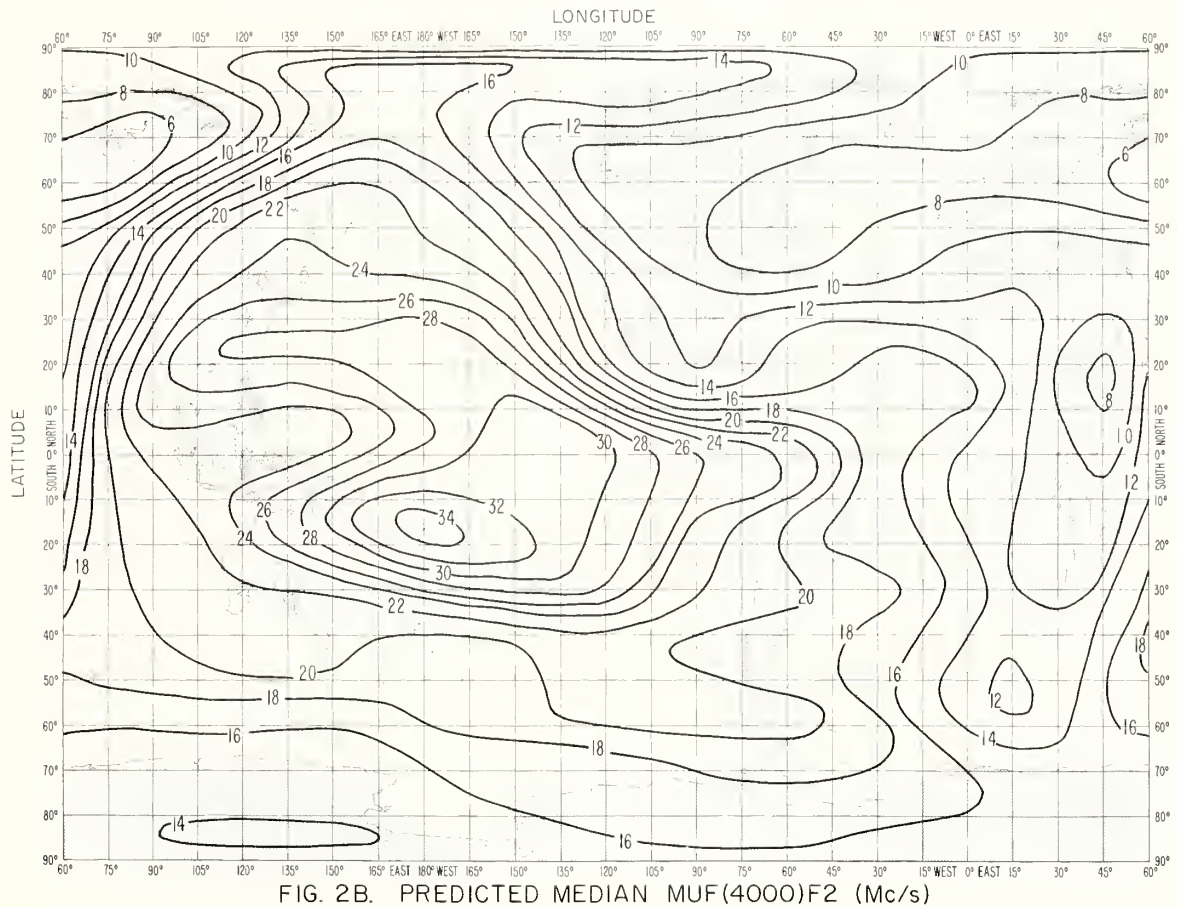
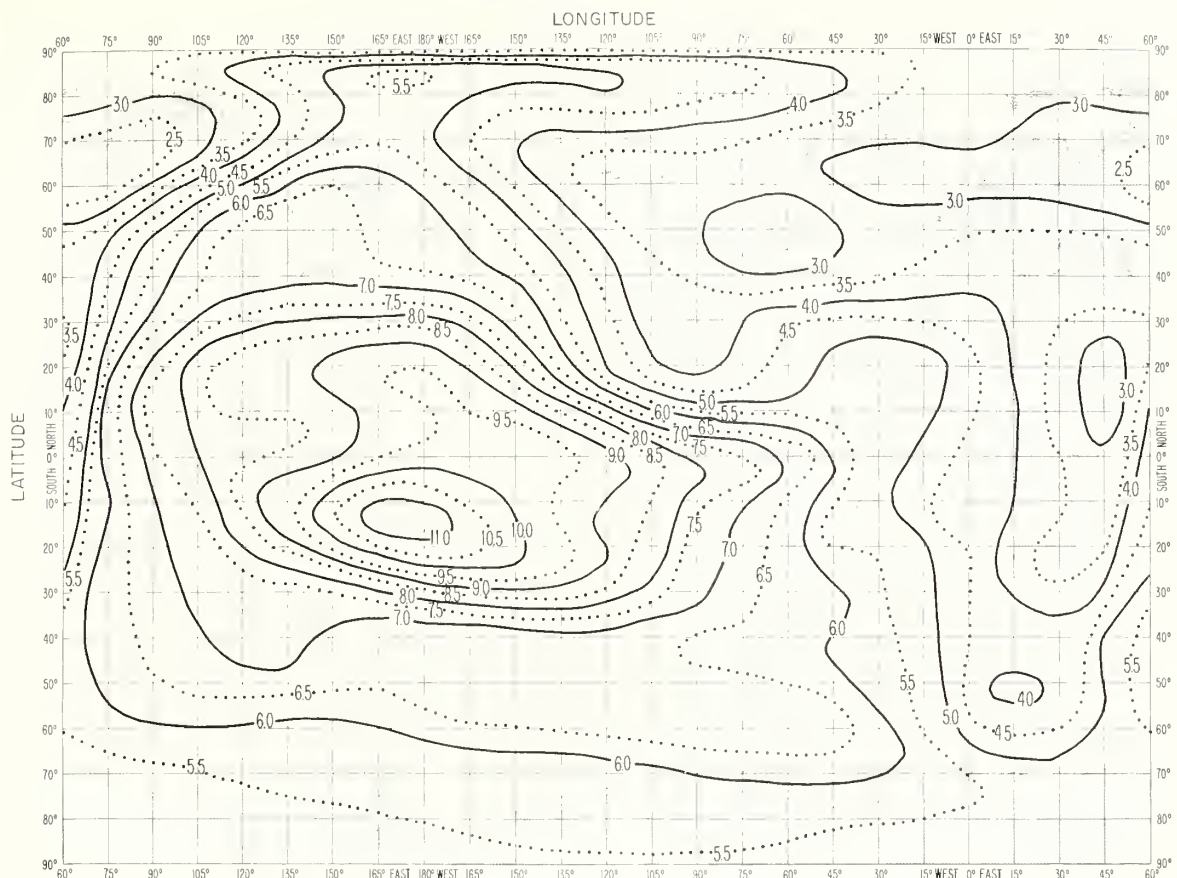


FIG 1 B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=02



DECEMBER 1963 UT=04

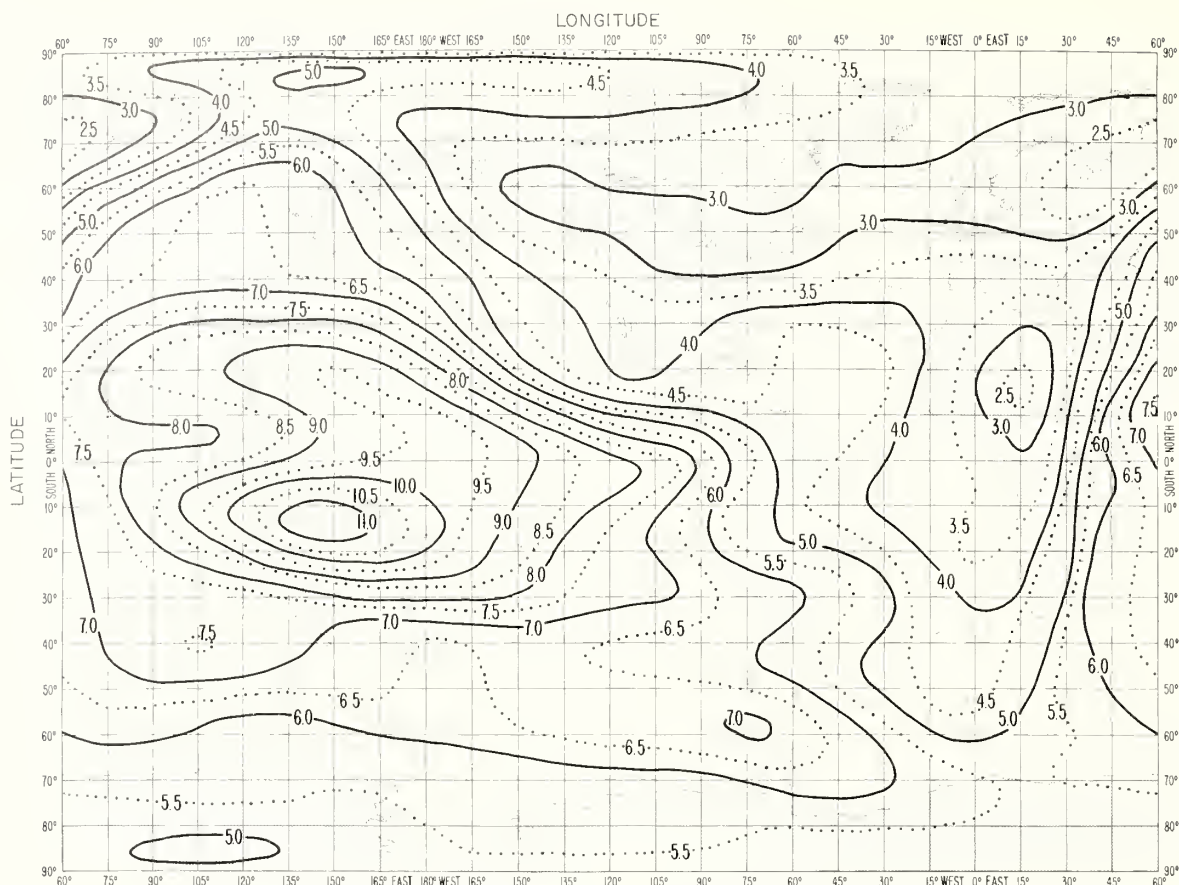


FIG. 3A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(0)F2 (Mc/s)

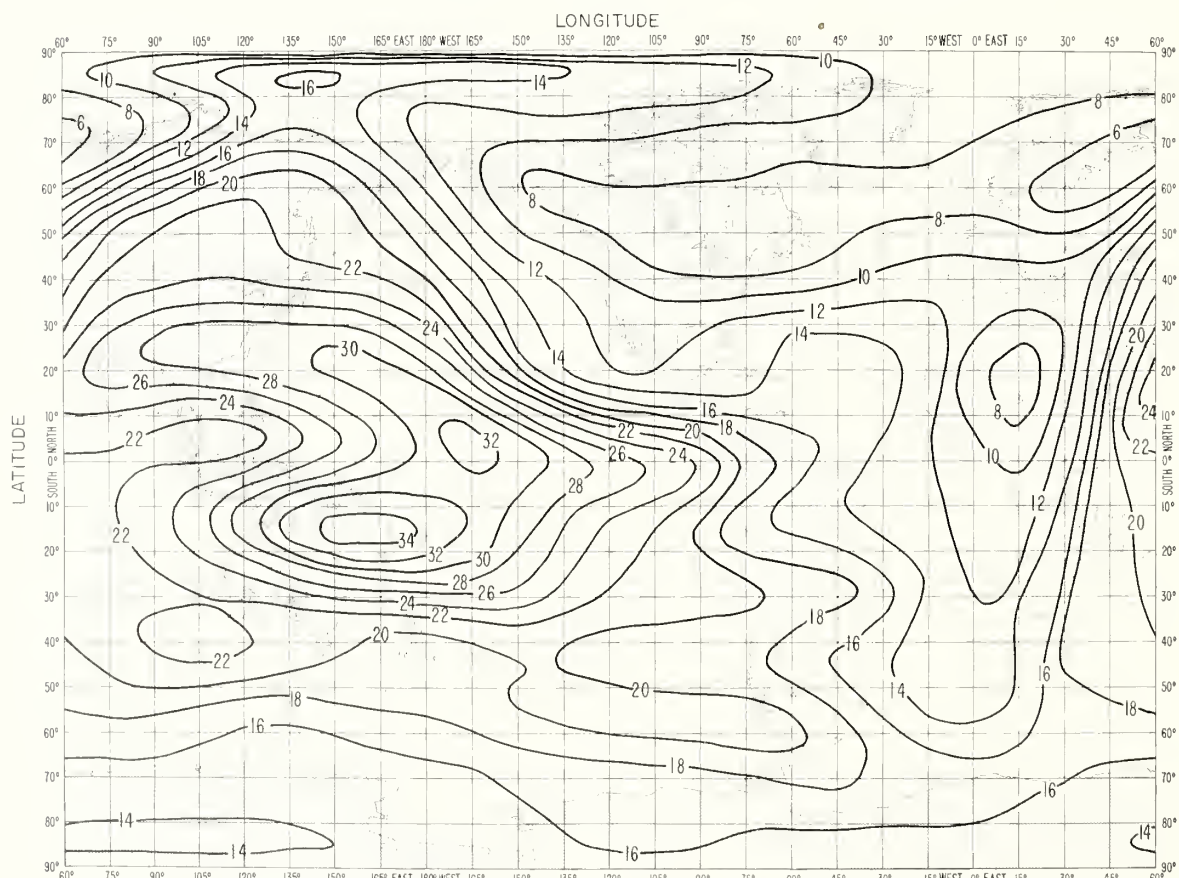


FIG. 3B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

UT=06



FIG 4A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)



FIG. 4B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT= 08

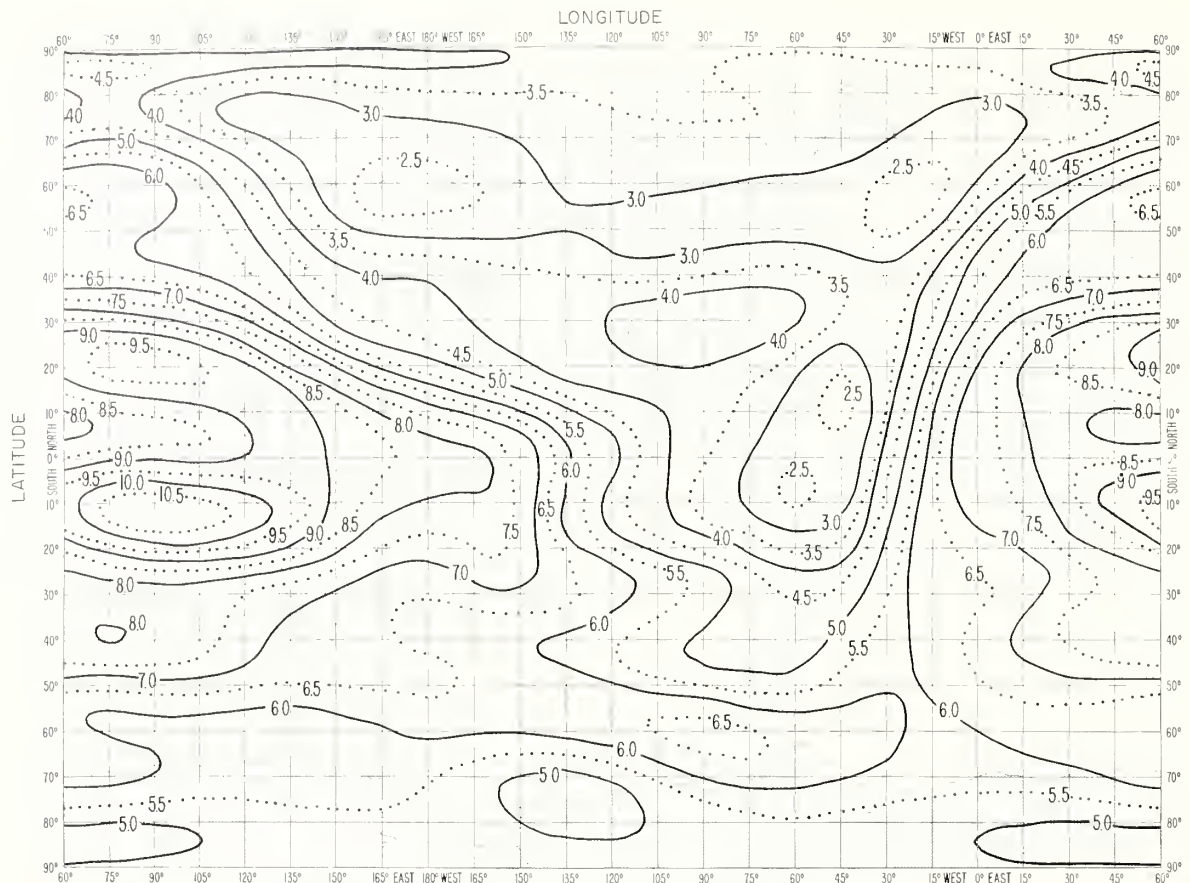


FIG 5A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

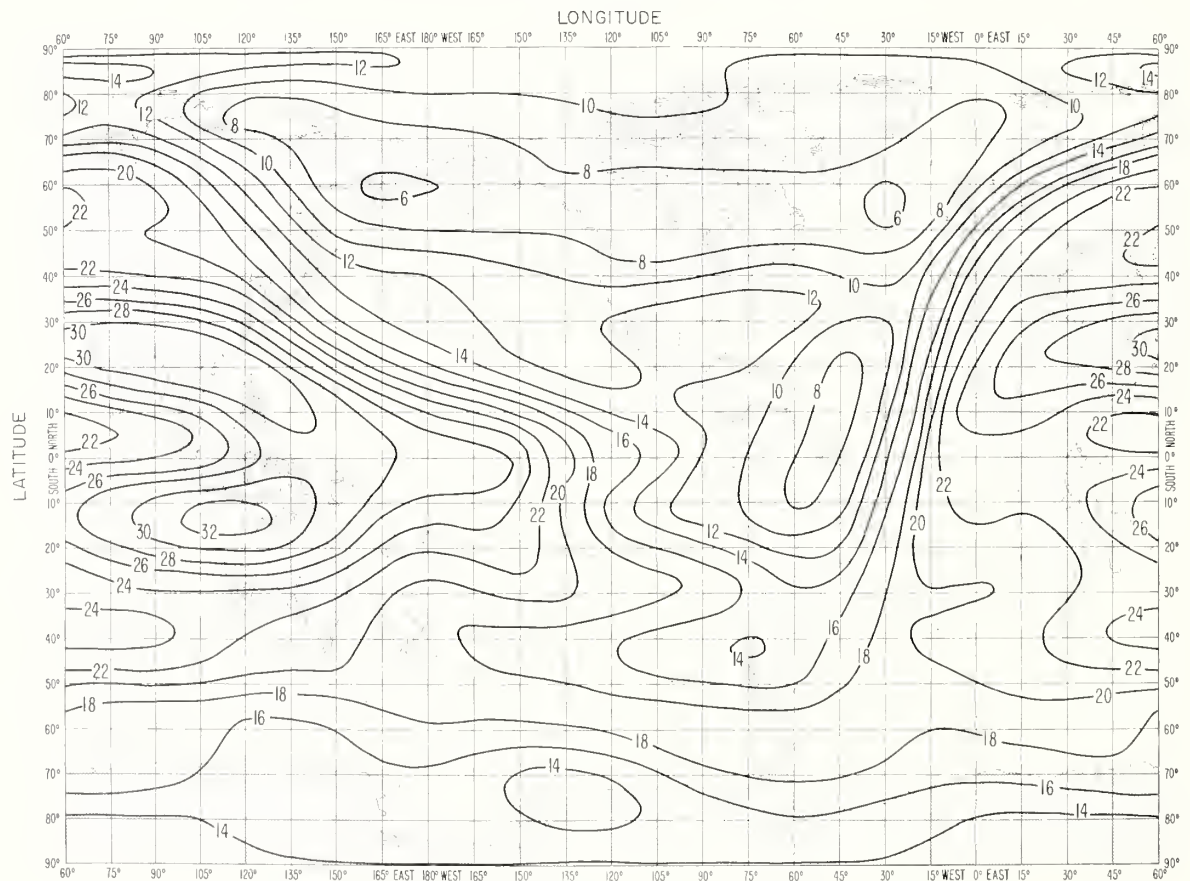


FIG 5B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=10

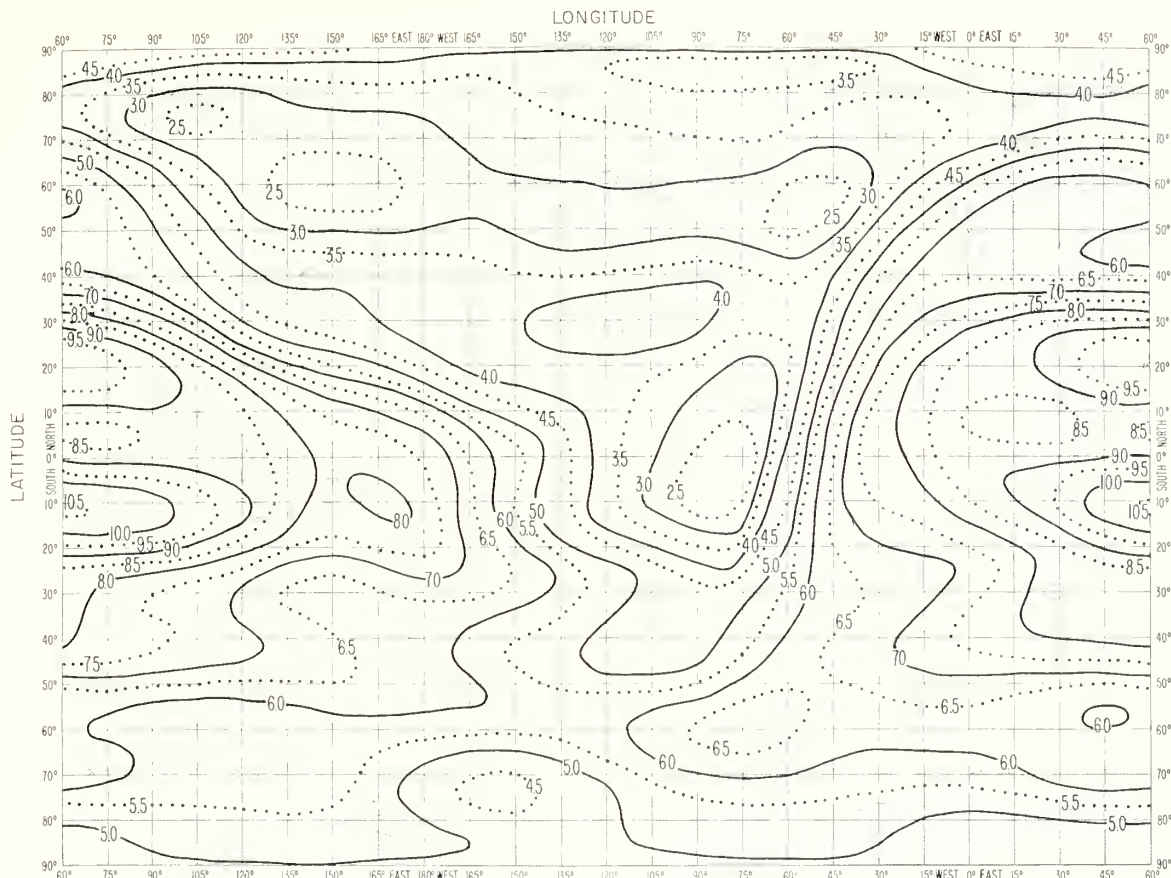


FIG 6A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

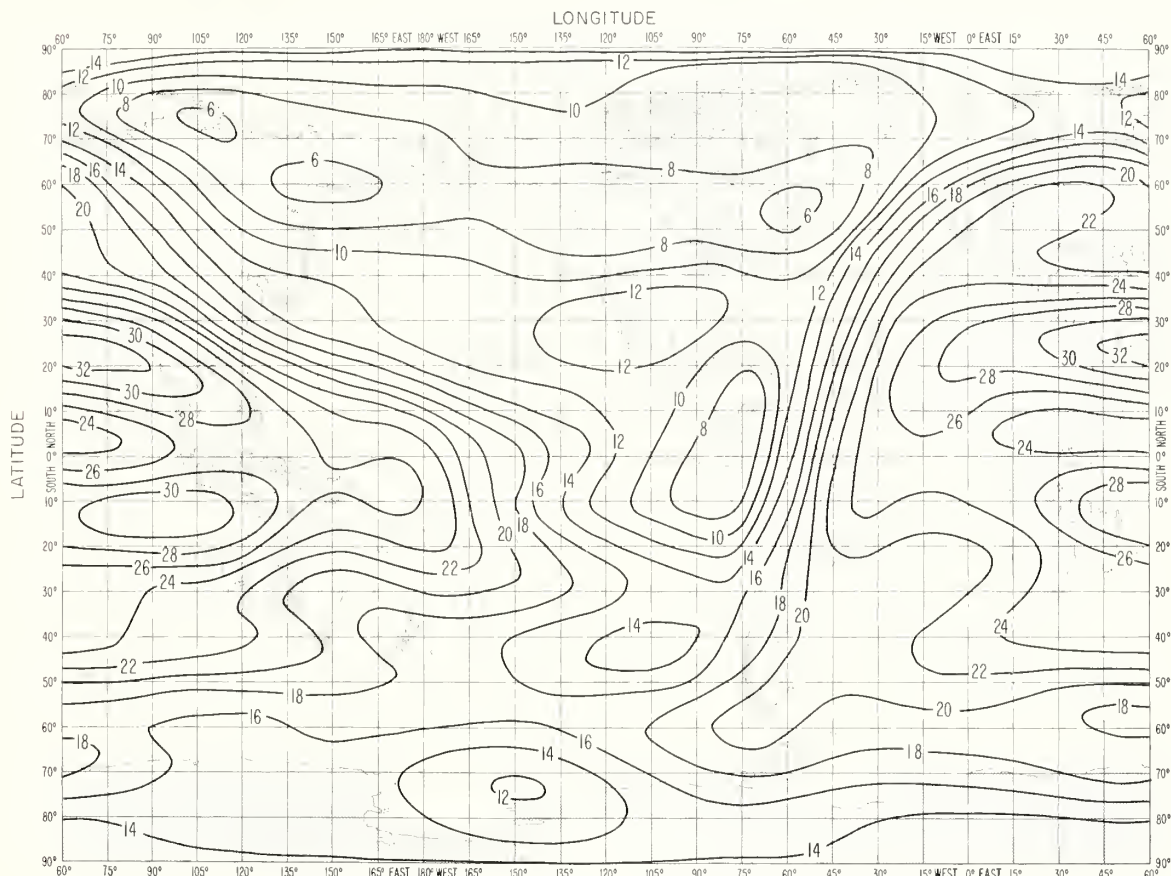


FIG 6B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=12

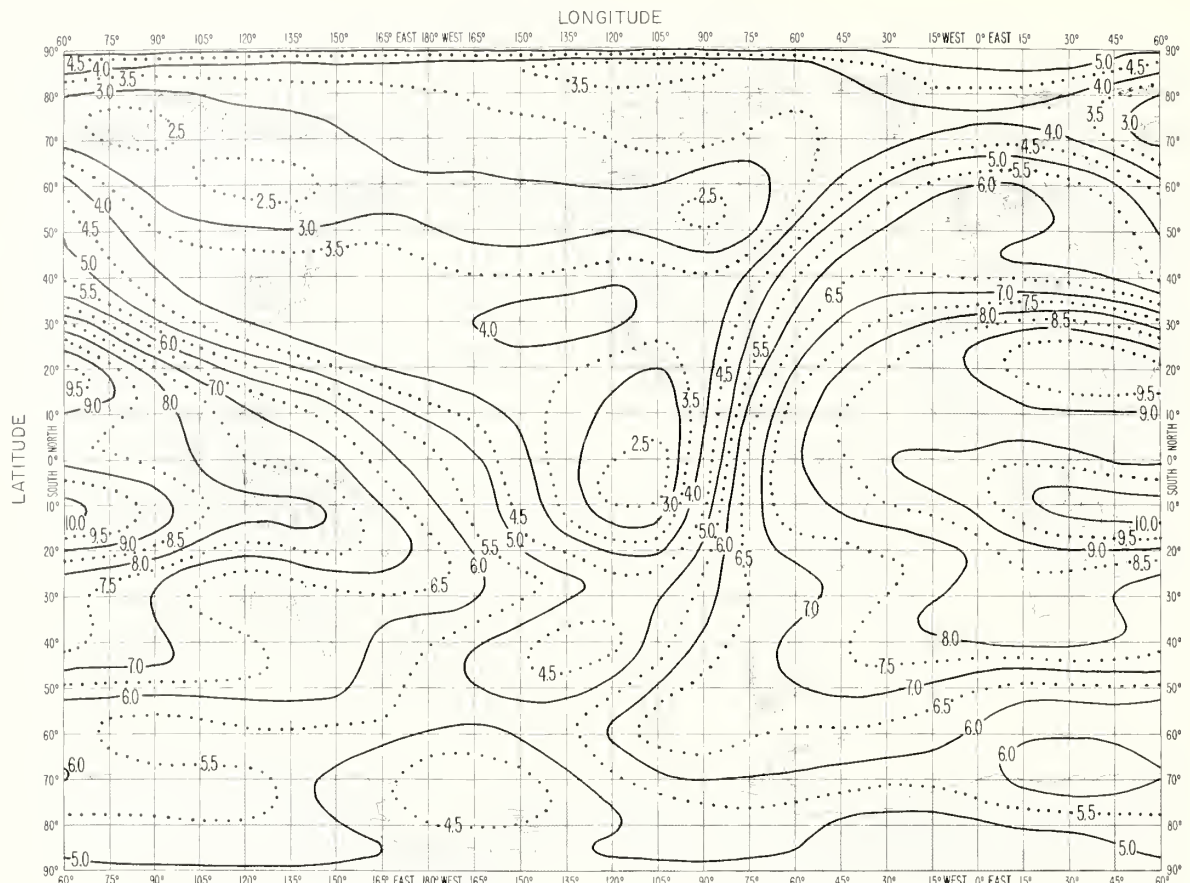


FIG 7A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

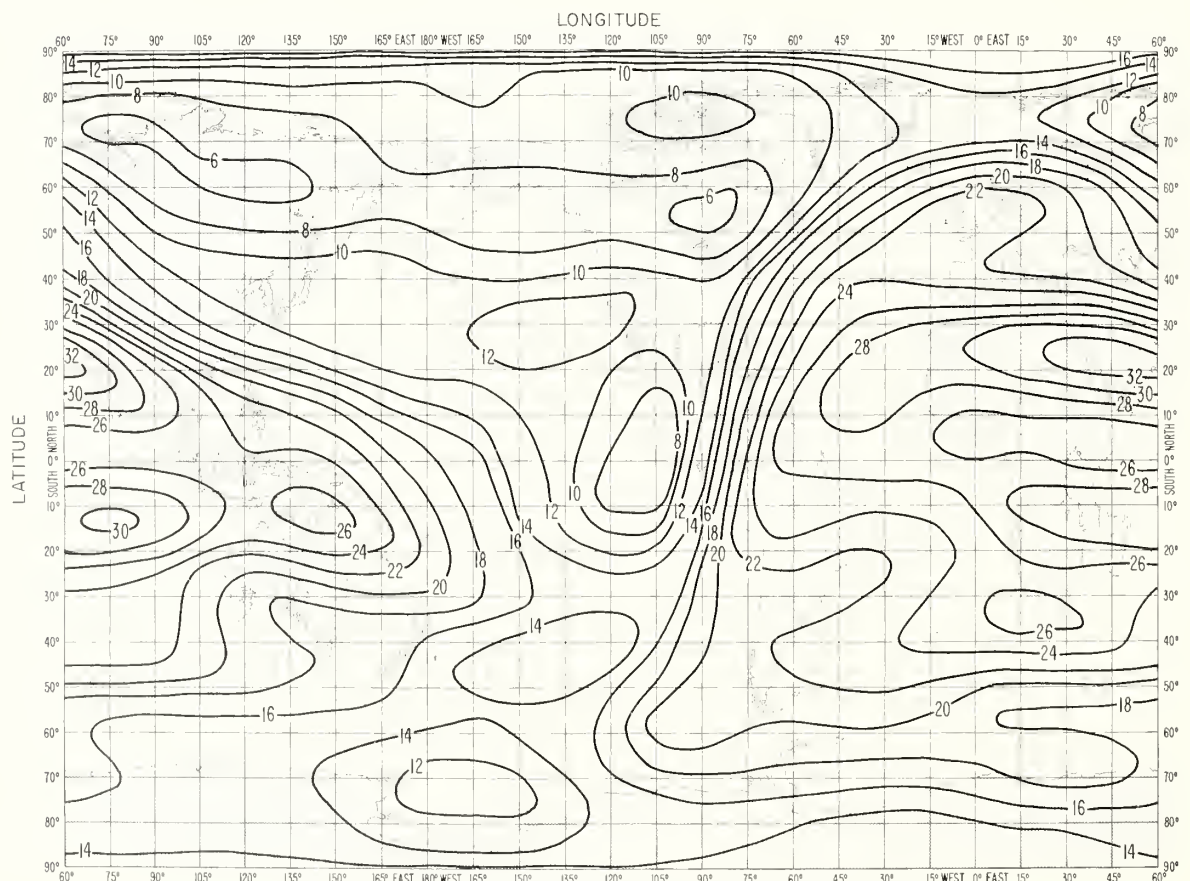


FIG 7B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=14

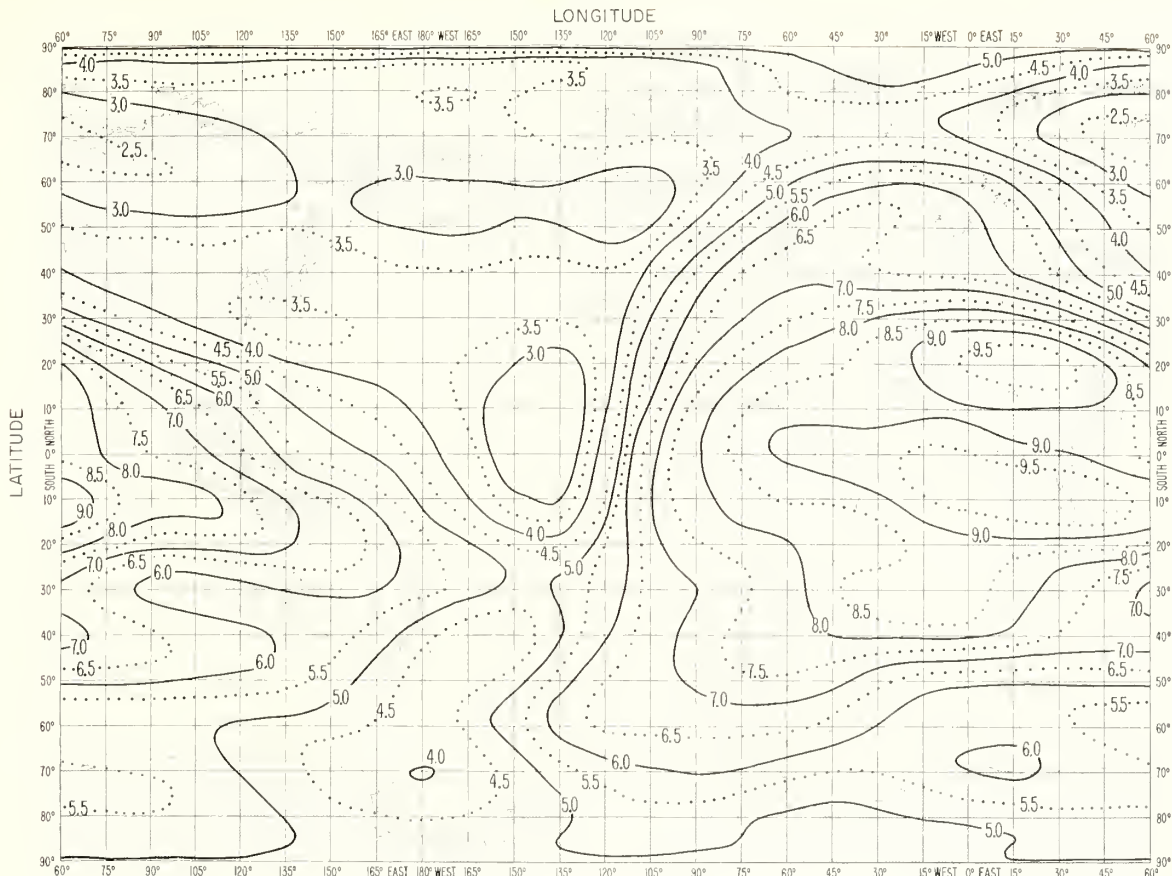


FIG 8A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

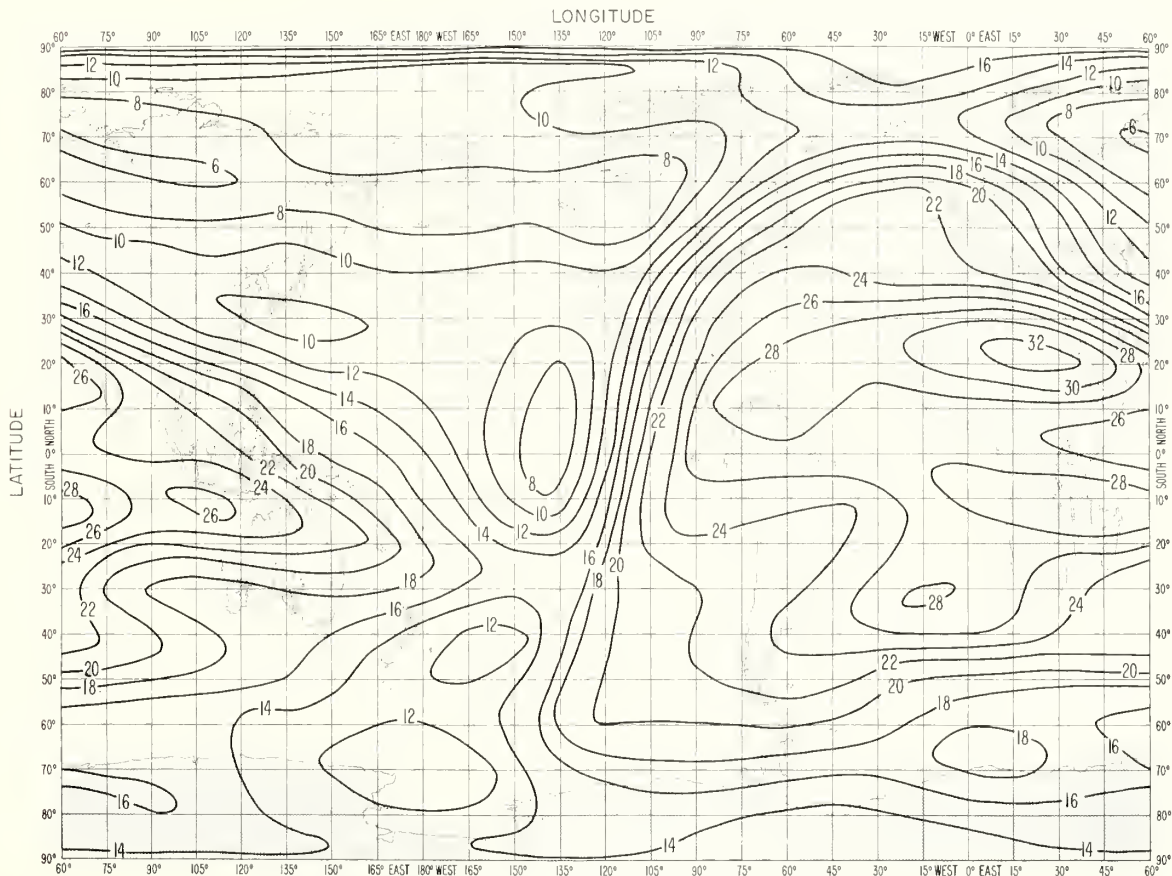


FIG 8B PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=16

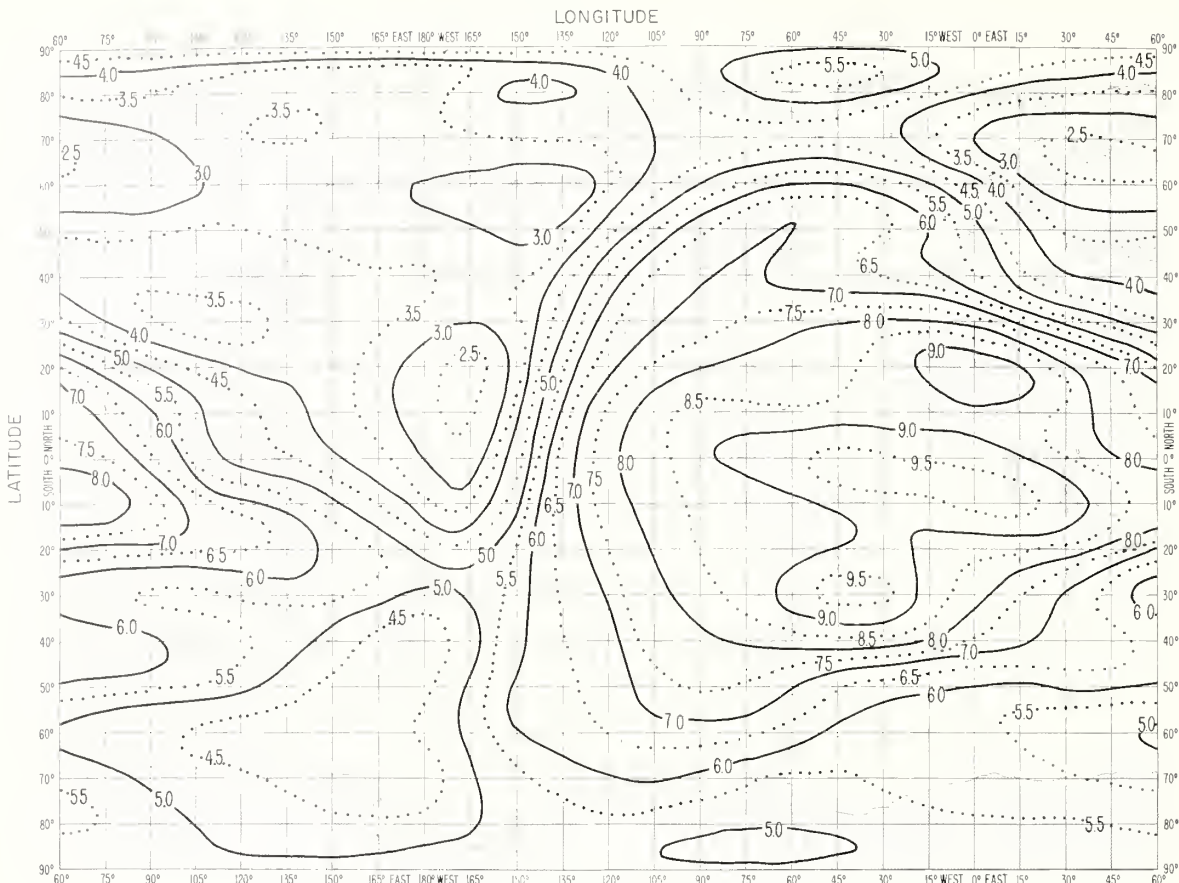


FIG 9A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

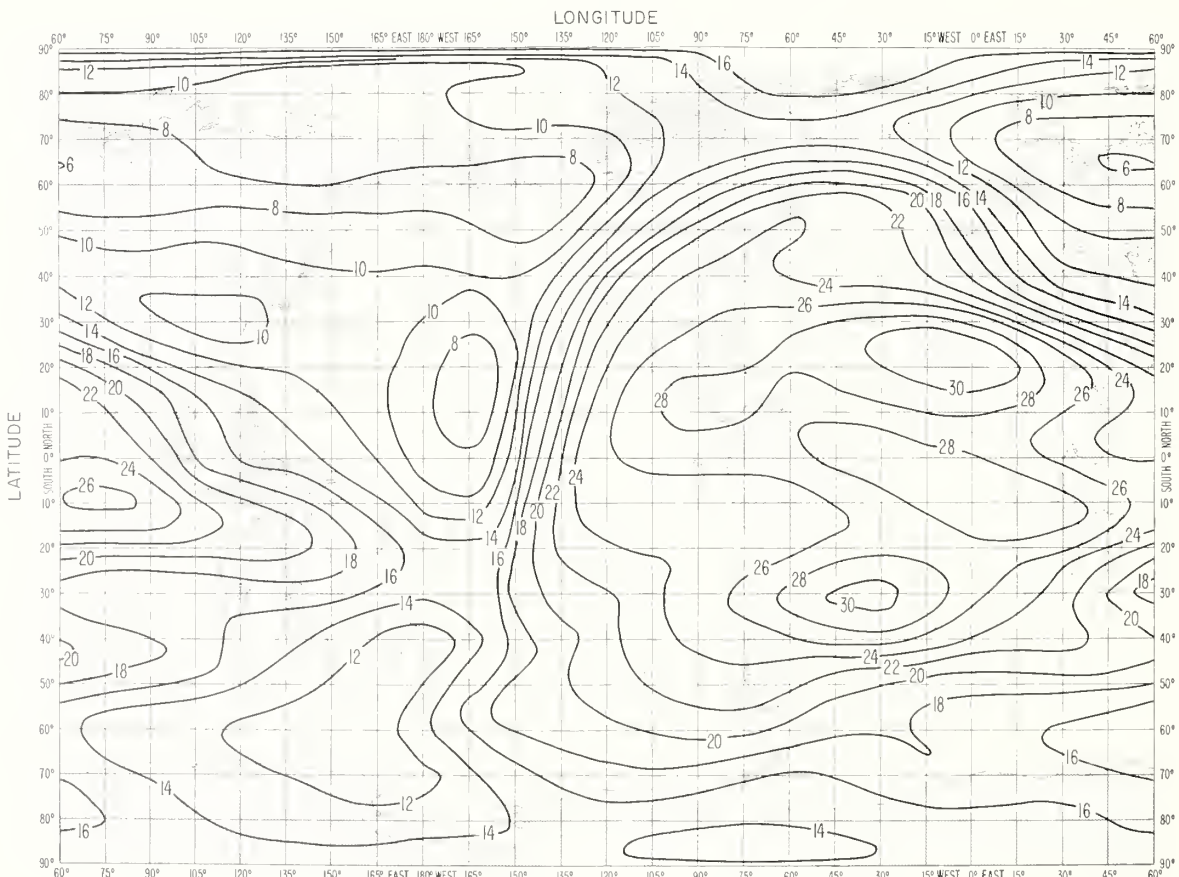


FIG 9B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=18

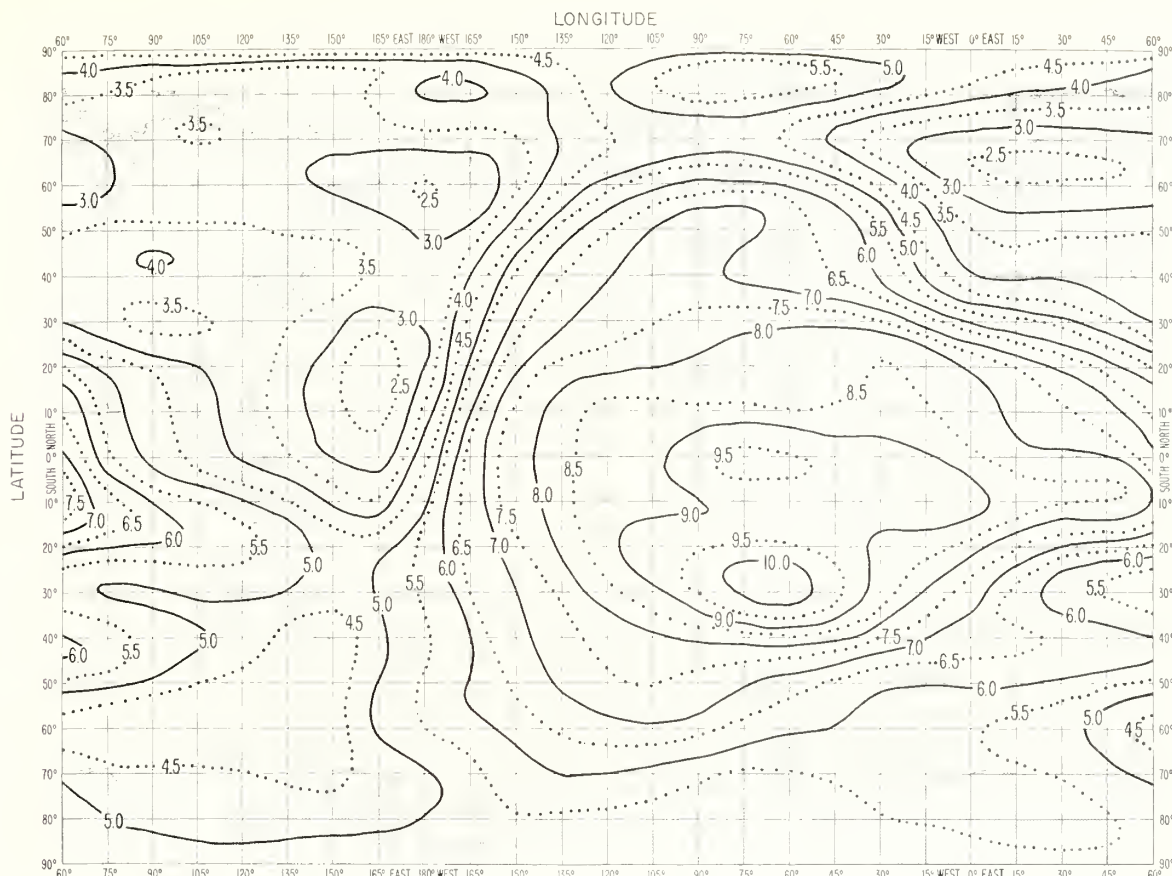


FIG 10A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

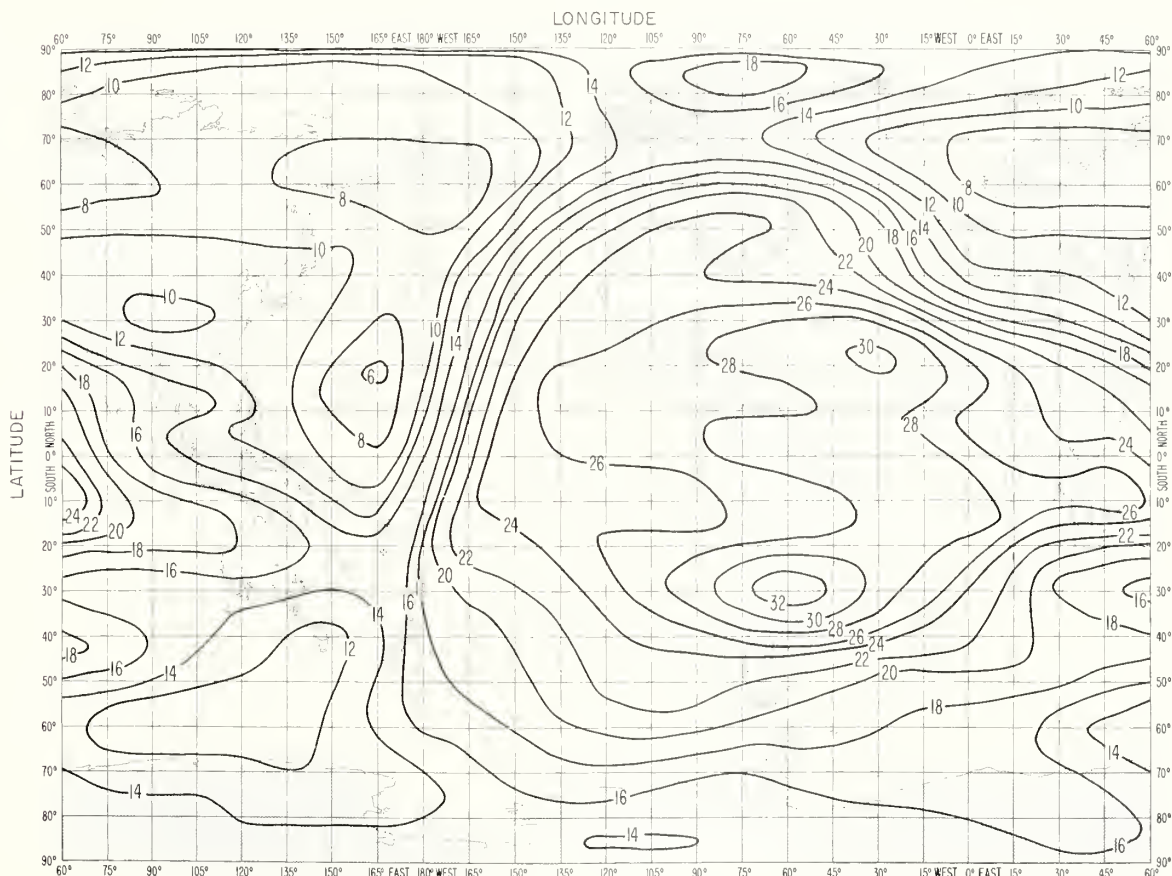


FIG 10B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=20

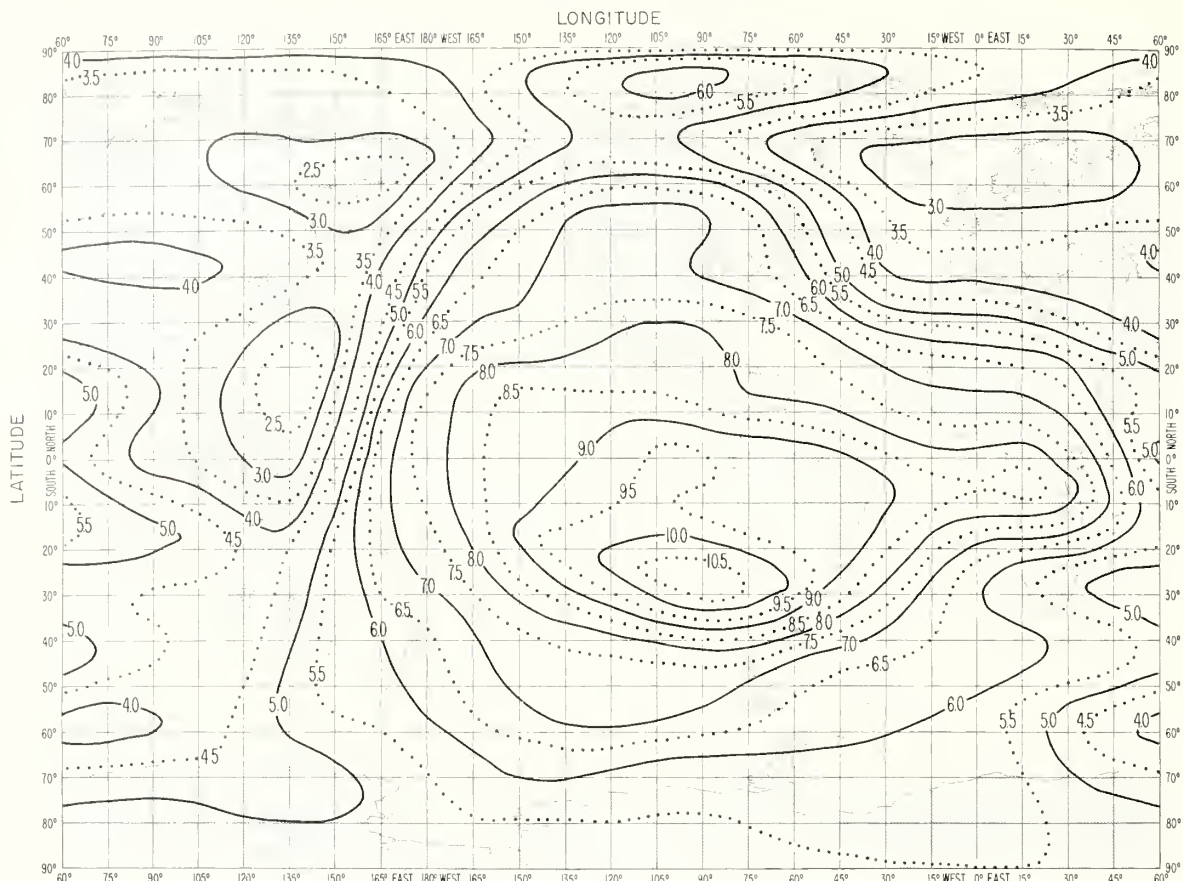


FIG 11A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

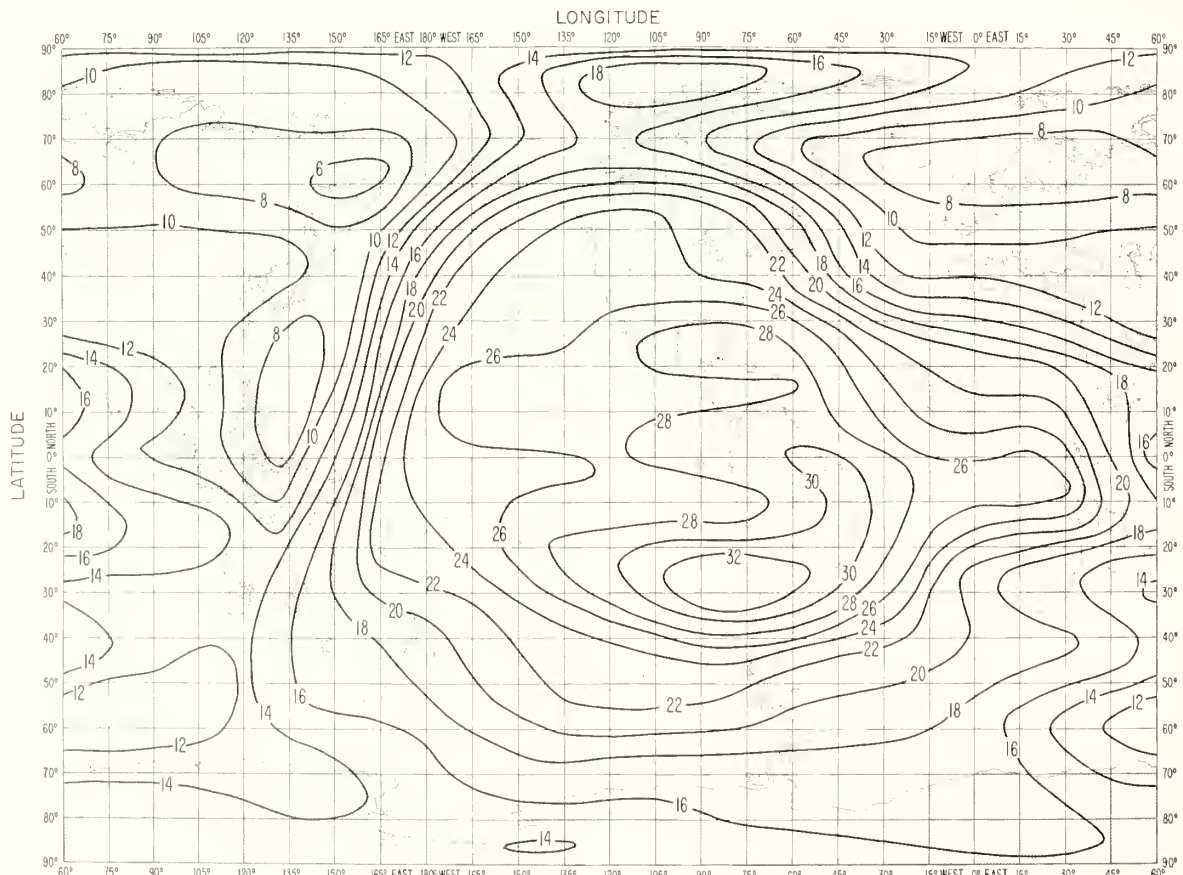
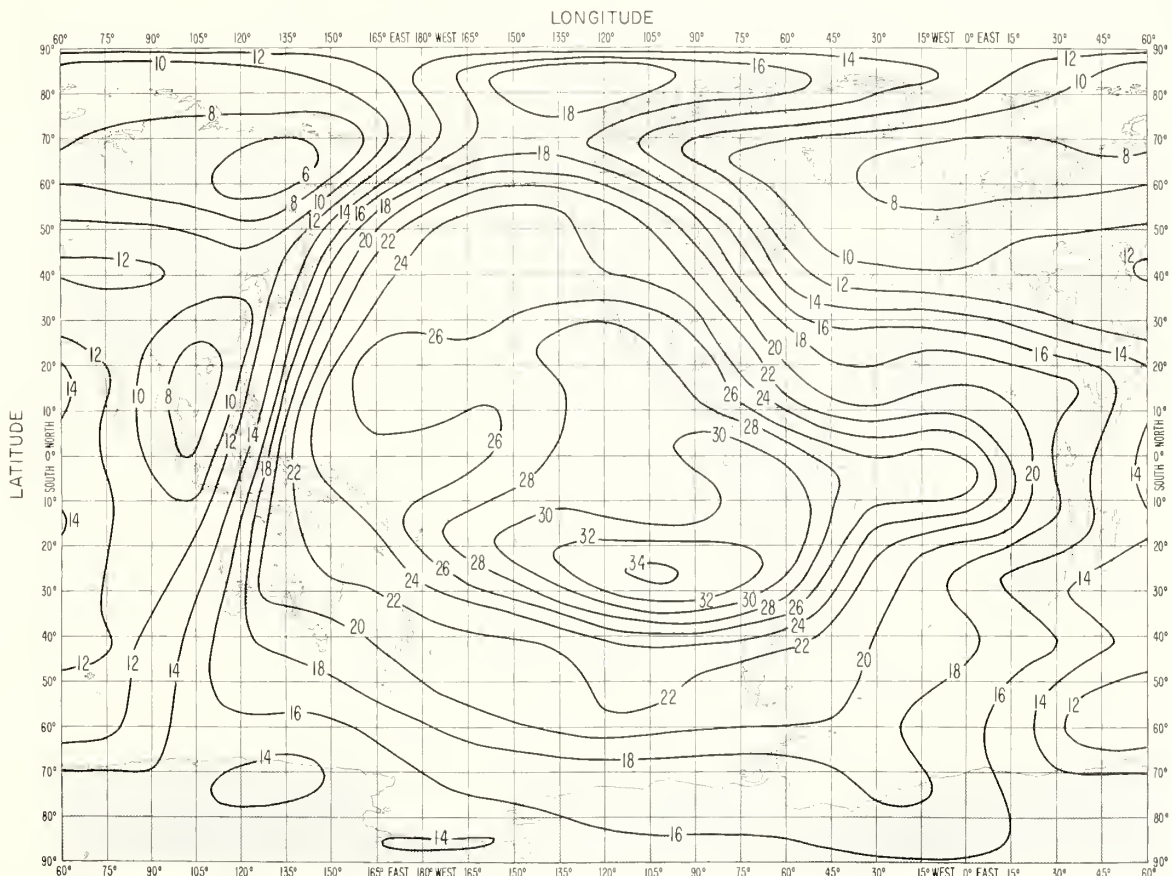
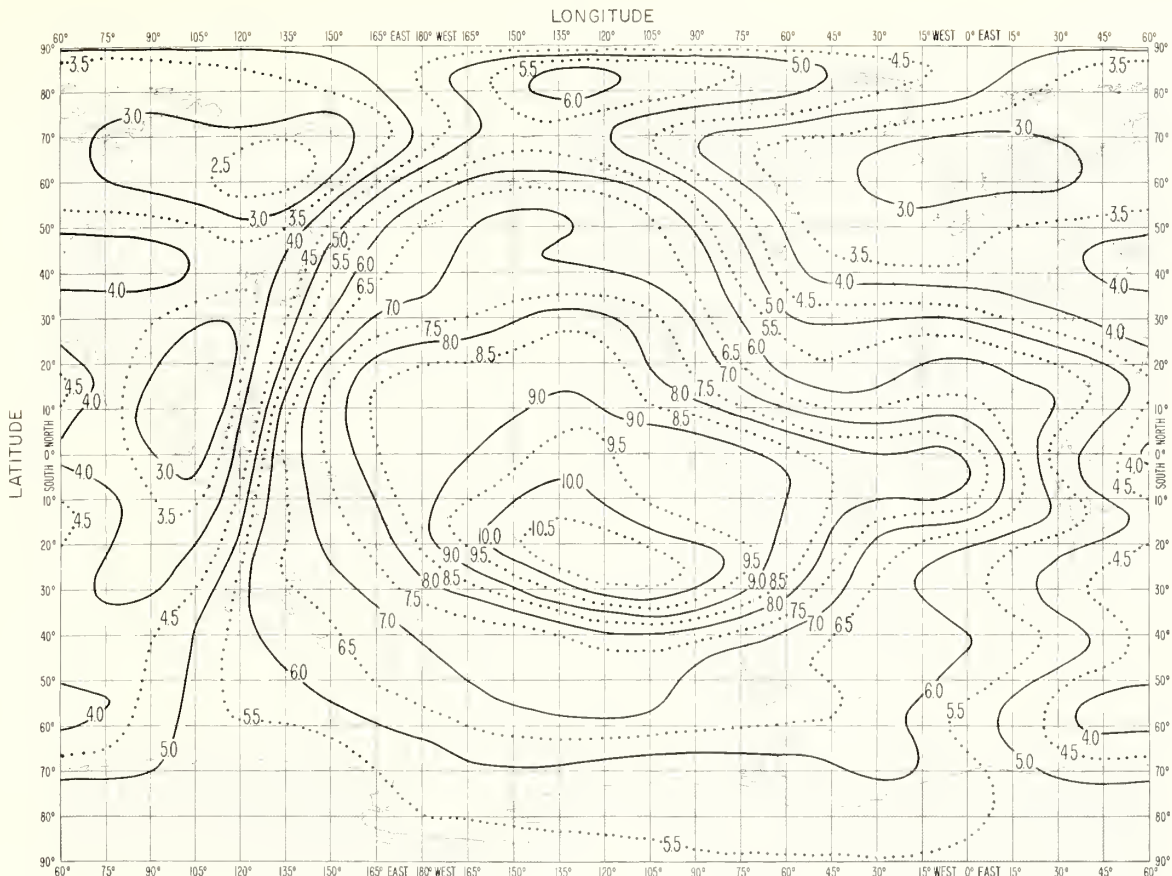


FIG 11B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

DECEMBER 1963 UT=22



NORTH POLAR AREA
DECEMBER 1963 UT=00

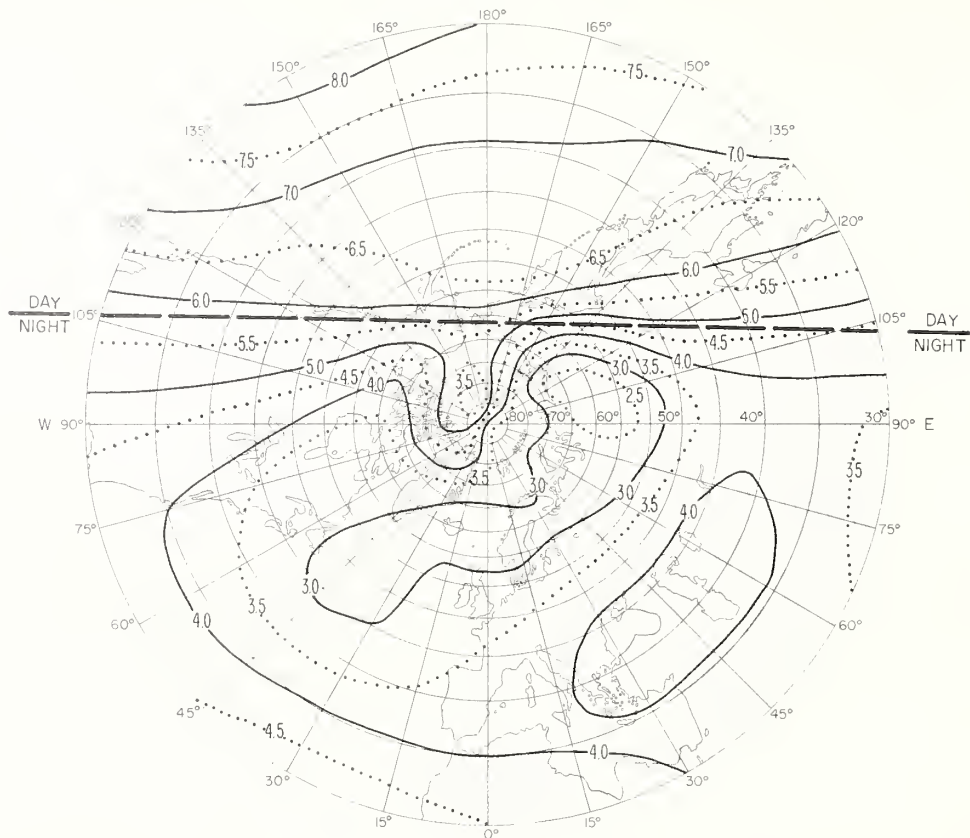


FIG 13A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

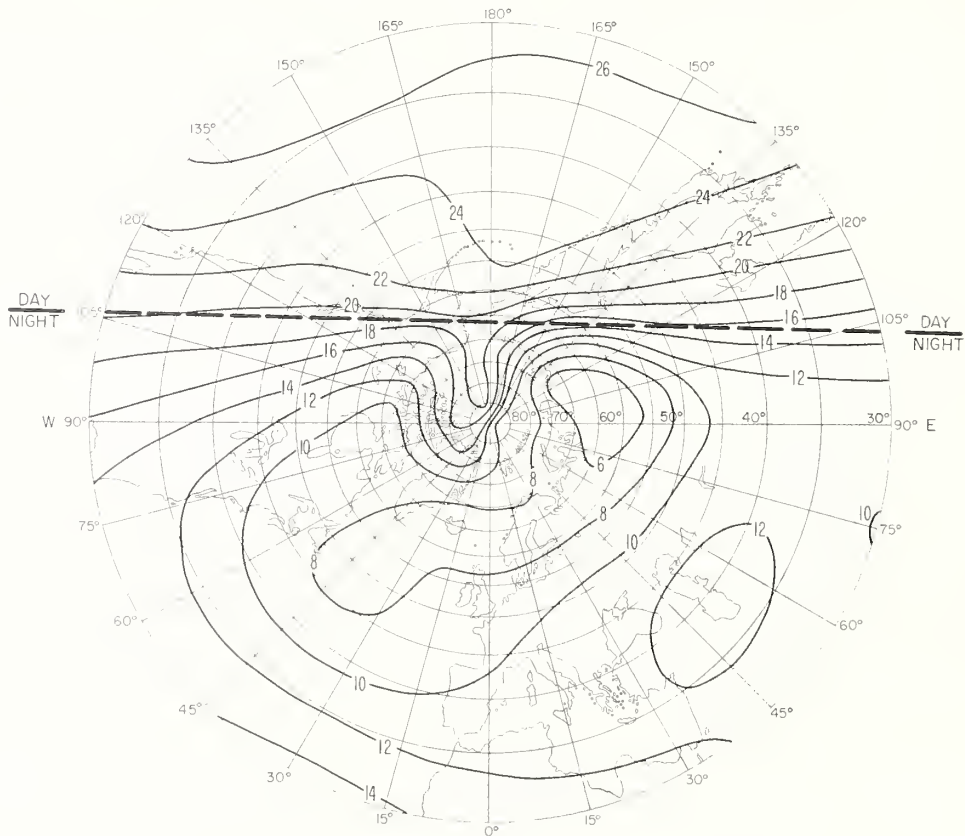


FIG 13B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

SOUTH POLAR AREA
DECEMBER 1963 UT=00

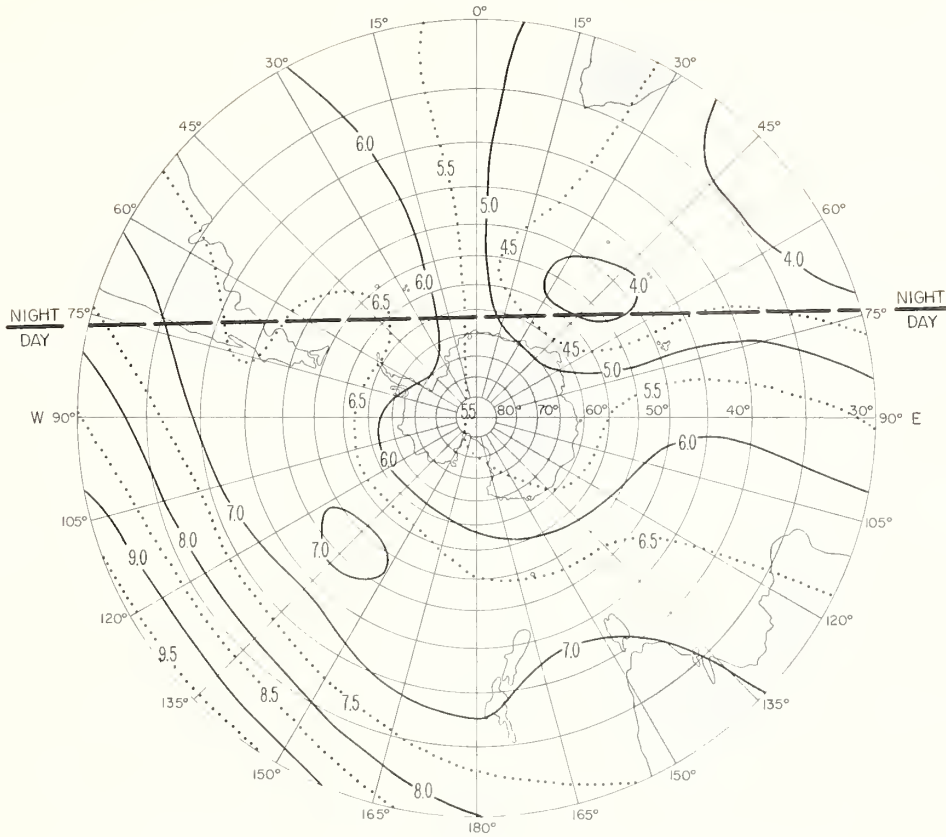


FIG. 14A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(0)F2 (Mc/s)

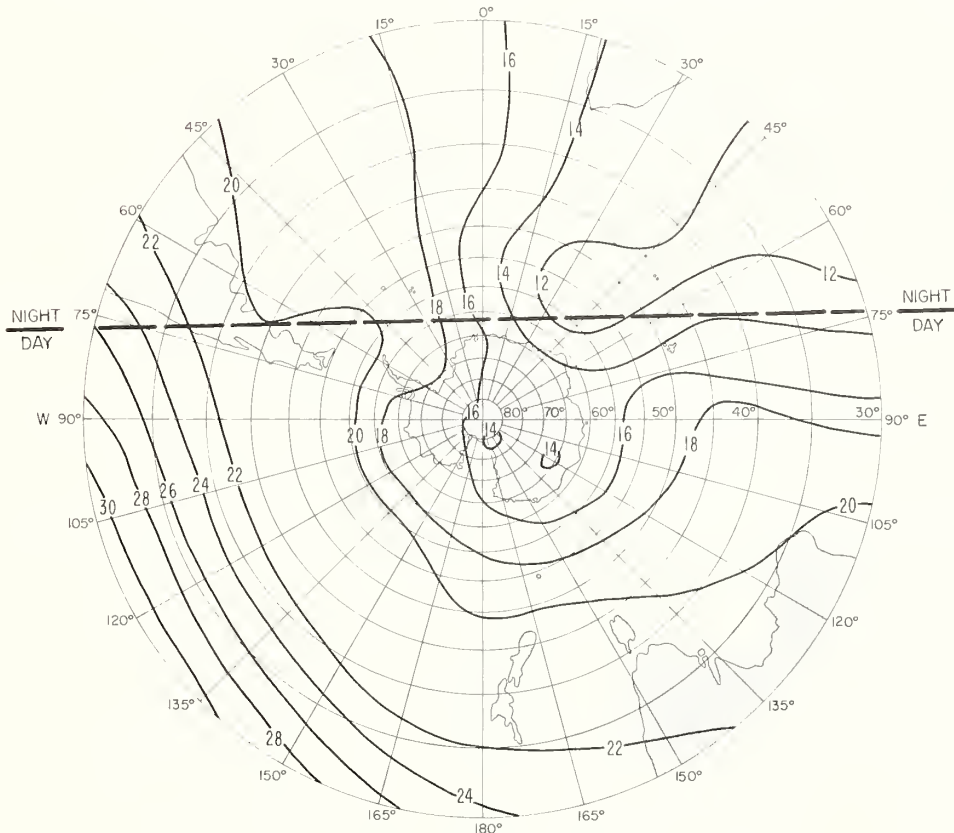


FIG. 14B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

NORTH POLAR AREA
DECEMBER 1963 UT=12

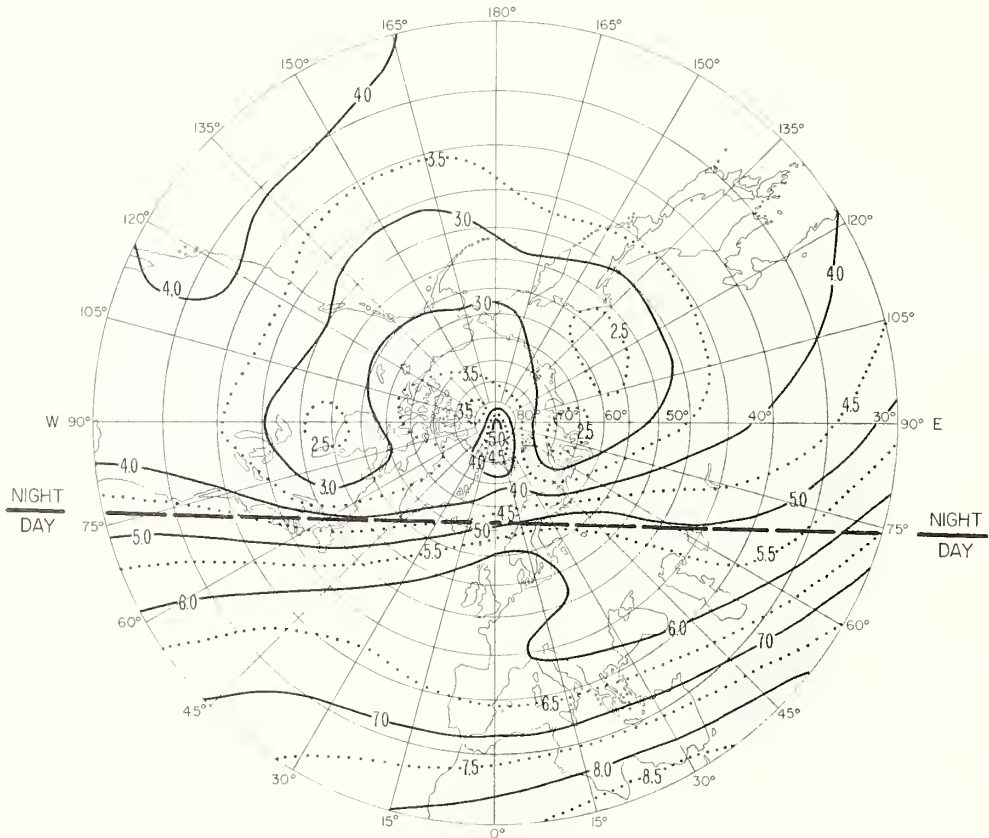


FIG. 15A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

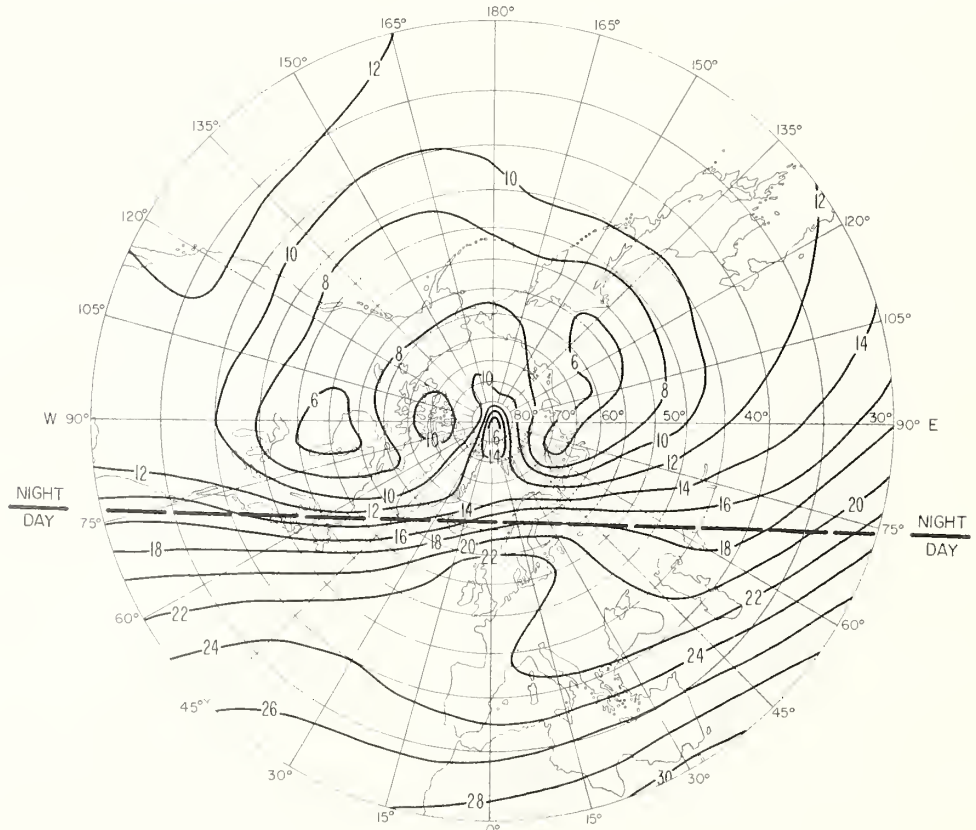


FIG. 15B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

SOUTH POLAR AREA
DECEMBER 1963 UT=12

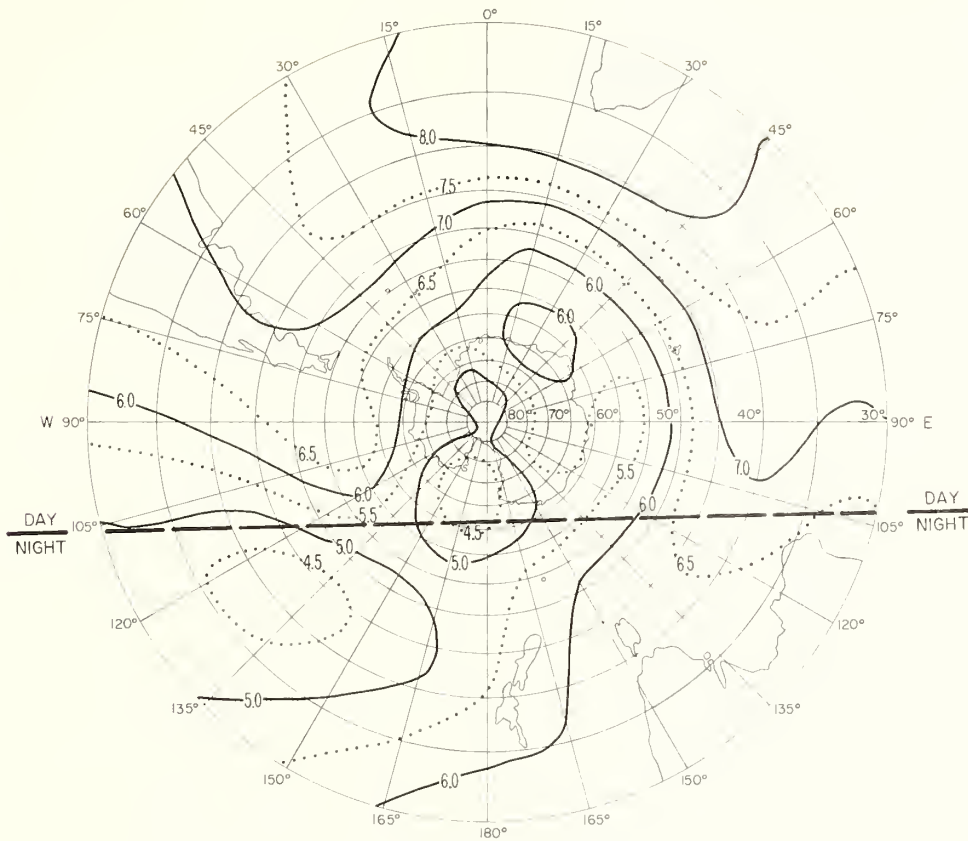


FIG. 16A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

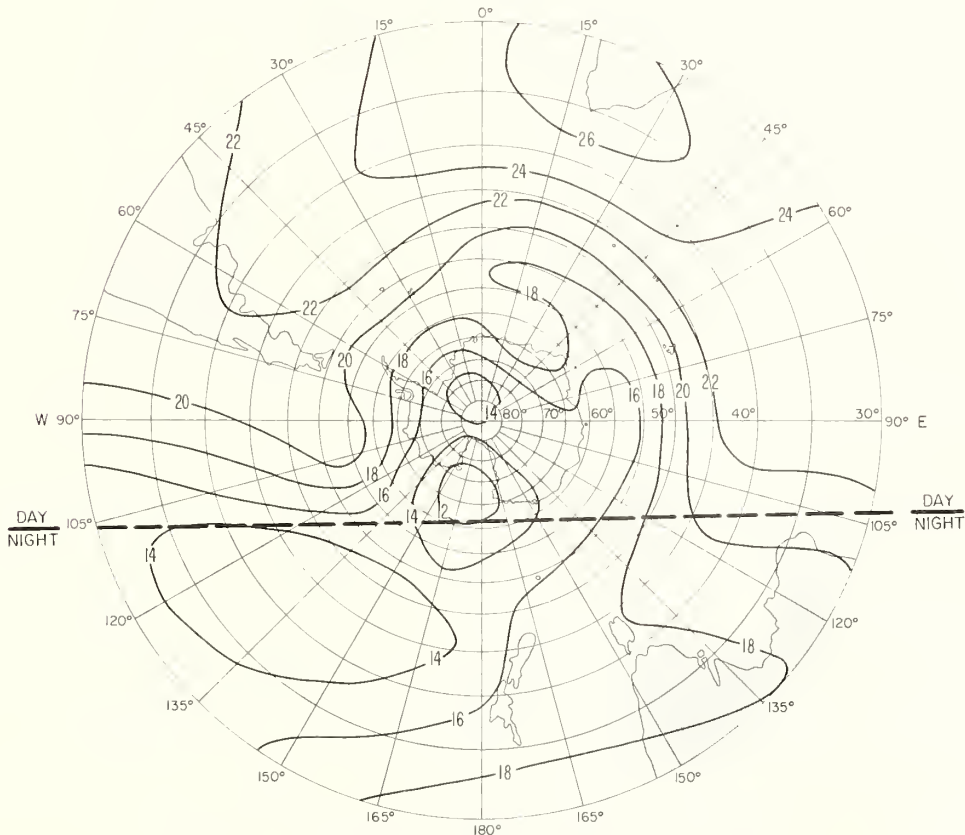


FIG. 16B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(4000)F2 (Mc/s)

ERRATUM

Table 1 for May 1963 (IP#2) through October 1963 (IP#7) should be amended as follows:

The cutoff for the coefficients for the first order in longitude (II) should occur after $k=36$. The coefficients for the second order in longitude (III) should begin with $k=37$ and continue through $k=52$.

This error in Table 1 did not occur in the computations for the world-map contours. Figures 1 through 16 are correct as published.

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NG: None.

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For explanation of abbreviations used, see AR 320-50.

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