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Chief, F&SR Division

August 26, 1959

MIC, WBAS, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Report on Tropical Storm Edith

Attached is a report on tropical storm Edith in the San Juan area of responsibility.

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cc: WBO, Miami ← THIS COPY FOR
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Tropical Storm Edith formed on an easterly wave in the Atlantic Ocean east of the Windward Islands. Analyzed 0000Z charts of August 17 showed an upper level trough at 700 and 500 millibars about 400 miles to the east of the Lesser Antilles. Falling pressures and heavy shower activity over the Lesser Antilles gave evidence of a developing perturbation to the east.

Reconnaissance aircraft were requested to search the area under suspicion. The aircraft found a weak center near latitude 13.8N longitude 57.2W at 2030Z August 17. Minimum surface pressure was 1007 millibars. At 2200Z the center was reported by the same aircraft to be near latitude 14.0N, longitude 57.7W with central pressure unchanged and highest wind 30 knots in squalls north of the center and light westerly winds south of the center.

From aircraft and vessel reports it was evident that the depression was moving out from under the upper level trough and coming under the influence of an upper level anticyclone over the Lesser Antilles and intensification was anticipated. Its rate of forward motion and expected nearness to the Lesser Antilles the following morning caused the first advisory to be issued by this office at 0100Z August 18. A hurricane watch was placed in effect for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Leeward Islands.

At first Edith moved toward the west-northwest at about 10 to 12 mph. During the morning of August 18 information received from ships and reconnaissance aircraft indicated that Edith had intensified and was moving more rapidly on a more northerly course. The storm was then in the vicinity of Guadeloupe with winds of 48 knots reported in the northeast quadrant and 45 knots from the southwest in the southern semicircle by reconnaissance aircraft. Raizet airport on Guadeloupe later reported a maximum wind of 34 knots from the south at 1310Z. A special advisory was issued at 1430Z.

After Edith crossed the island chain between Guadeloupe and Dominica and moved into the Caribbean Sea, she weakened and moved at a faster rate on a more westerly heading. Reconnaissance aircraft were unable to find an eye or any westerly or southerly winds in the northeast Caribbean area. Apparently the storm was torn apart as it passed over Guadeloupe and never intensified or reorganized thereafter. Squalls and heavy showers were experienced over Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hispaniola, but no sustained high winds were reported. By 1000Z August 19 the storm had completely degenerated into an open wave and the final advisory was issued at that time.

A total of eight advisories and eight bulletins were issued. Whole Gale warnings were raised over the Lesser Antilles from Antigua to Grenada and Barbados and were later extended to include the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Whole Gale warnings were changed to Gale warnings over the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico when the storm began to weaken.

Advisories and bulletins were timely and there was no loss of life. No report of damages have been received from any of the land areas affected by tropical storm Edith. Maximum winds reported over Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were around 35 to 39 mph in gusts in the heavier squalls.