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**A CLIMATIC ISOVISIC AND
NEPHANALYSIS ATLAS OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC, NORTH PACIFIC
AND INDIAN OCEANS**

J. H. Keating

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Atlas of the North Atlantic, North
Pacific and Indian Oceans

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ABSTRACT

In support of the NRDL Optical Sensor Study climatological charts are provided for the mid-season months of January, April, July and October for the North Atlantic, North Pacific and Indian Oceans. The climatological charts provide:

- a. Isovisic (visibility) maps of the percentage frequency of visibilities less than 25, 10, five, two and one nm.
- b. Isovisic maps of visibility for 90 percent, 75 percent, 50 percent and 25 percent.
- c. Nephanalysis maps of the percentage frequency of total cloud cover greater than or equal to seven eights ($\geq 7/8$).
- d. Nephanalysis maps of percentage frequency of total cloud cover equal to or less than two tenths ($\leq 2/10$).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
SECTION I	INTRODUCTION	1
SECTION II	METEOROLOGICAL VISIBILITY	2
	RELIABILITY OF VISIBILITY OBSERVATIONS	2
	ISOVISIC ANALYSIS	3
SECTION III	NEPHANALYSIS	4
SECTION IV	GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS STUDIED	5
SECTION V	DESCRIPTION OF THE ANALYSIS	9
APPENDIX A	ISOVISIC MAPS - PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF VISIBILITIES LESS THAN 25, 10, FIVE, TWO AND ONE NAUTICAL MILES.	A-1
APPENDIX B	ISOVISIC MAPS - 90 PERCENT, 75 PERCENT, 50 PERCENT AND 25 PERCENT PROBABILITY OF VISIBILITY GREATER THAN INDICATED	B-1
APPENDIX C	NEPHANALYSIS - PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF TOTAL CLOUD COVER $\geq 7/8$	C-1
APPENDIX D	NEPHANALYSIS - PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF TOTAL CLOUD COVER $\leq 2/10$	D-1
APPENDIX E	REFERENCES	E-1
APPENDIX F	DISTRIBUTION LIST	F-1

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

		<u>Page</u>
Figure 1	North Atlantic Ocean Data Location	6
Figure 2	North Pacific Ocean Data Location	7
Figure 3	Indian Ocean Data Location	8
Isovisic Map-Percentage Frequency (P.F.) of Visibility		
Figure A-1	North Atlantic - January - P.F. < 25 NM	A-2
Figure A-2	North Atlantic - January - P.F. < 10 NM	A-3
Figure A-3	North Atlantic - January - P.F. < 5 NM	A-4
Figure A-4	North Atlantic - January - P.F. < 2 NM	A-5
Figure A-5	North Atlantic - January - P.F. < 1 NM	A-6
Figure A-6	North Atlantic - April - P.F. < 25 NM	A-7
Figure A-7	North Atlantic - April - P.F. < 10 NM	A-8
Figure A-8	North Atlantic - April - P.F. < 5 NM	A-9
Figure A-9	North Atlantic - April - P.F. < 2 NM	A-10
Figure A-10	North Atlantic - April - P.F. < 1 NM	A-11
Figure A-11	North Atlantic - July - P.F. < 25 NM	A-12
Figure A-12	North Atlantic - July - P.F. < 10 NM	A-13
Figure A-13	North Atlantic - July - P.F. < 5 NM	A-14
Figure A-14	North Atlantic - July - P.F. < 2 NM	A-15
Figure A-15	North Atlantic - July - P.F. < 1 NM	A-16
Figure A-16	North Atlantic - October - P.F. < 25 NM	A-17
Figure A-17	North Atlantic - October - P.F. < 10 NM	A-18
Figure A-18	North Atlantic - October - P.F. < 5 NM	A-19
Figure A-19	North Atlantic - October - P.F. < 2 NM	A-20
Figure A-20	North Atlantic - October - P.F. < 1 NM	A-21
Figure A-21	North Pacific - January - P.F. < 25 NM	A-22
Figure A-22	North Pacific - January - P.F. < 10 NM	A-23
Figure A-23	North Pacific - January - P.F. < 5 NM	A-24
Figure A-24	North Pacific - January - P.F. < 2 NM	A-25
Figure A-25	North Pacific - January - P.F. < 1 NM	A-26
Figure A-26	North Pacific - April - P.F. < 25 NM	A-27
Figure A-27	North Pacific - April - P.F. < 10 NM	A-28
Figure A-28	North Pacific - April - P.F. < 5 NM	A-29
Figure A-29	North Pacific - April - P.F. < 2 NM	A-30
Figure A-30	North Pacific - April - P.F. < 1 NM	A-31
Figure A-31	North Pacific - July - P.F. < 25 NM	A-32
Figure A-32	North Pacific - July - P.F. < 10 NM	A-33
Figure A-33	North Pacific - July - P.F. < 5 NM	A-34
Figure A-34	North Pacific - July - P.F. < 2 NM	A-35
Figure A-35	North Pacific - July - P.F. < 1 NM	A-36

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (CONTINUED)

		<u>Page</u>
Figure A-36	North Pacific - October - P.F. < 25 NM	A-37
Figure A-37	North Pacific - October - P.F. < 10 NM	A-38
Figure A-38	North Pacific - October - P.F. < 5 NM	A-39
Figure A-39	North Pacific - October - P.F. < 2 NM	A-40
Figure A-40	North Pacific - October - P.F. < 1 NM	A-41
Figure A-41	Indian Ocean - January - P.F. < 25 NM	A-42
Figure A-42	Indian Ocean - January - P.F. < 10 NM	A-43
Figure A-43	Indian Ocean - January - P.F. < 5 NM	A-44
Figure A-44	Indian Ocean - January - P.F. < 2 NM	A-45
Figure A-45	Indian Ocean - January - P.F. < 1 NM	A-46
Figure A-46	Indian Ocean - April - P.F. < 25 NM	A-47
Figure A-47	Indian Ocean - April - P.F. < 10 NM	A-48
Figure A-48	Indian Ocean - April - P.F. < 5 NM	A-49
Figure A-49	Indian Ocean - April - P.F. < 2 NM	A-50
Figure A-50	Indian Ocean - April - P.F. < 1 NM	A-51
Figure A-51	Indian Ocean - July - P.F. < 25 NM	A-52
Figure A-52	Indian Ocean - July - P.F. < 10 NM	A-53
Figure A-53	Indian Ocean - July - P.F. < 5 NM	A-54
Figure A-54	Indian Ocean - July - P.F. < 2 NM	A-55
Figure A-55	Indian Ocean - July - P.F. < 1 NM	A-56
Figure A-56	Indian Ocean - October - P.F. < 25 NM	A-57
Figure A-57	Indian Ocean - October - P.F. < 10 NM	A-58
Figure A-58	Indian Ocean - October - P.F. < 5 NM	A-59
Figure A-59	Indian Ocean - October - P.F. < 2 NM	A-60
Figure A-60	Indian Ocean - October - P.F. < 1 NM	A-61

Isovisic Map-Percentage Probability of
Visibility (NM) Greater Than Indicated

Figure B-1	North Atlantic - January - 90% Probability	B-2
Figure B-2	North Atlantic - January - 75% Probability	B-3
Figure B-3	North Atlantic - January - 50% Probability	B-4
Figure B-4	North Atlantic - January - 25% Probability	B-5
Figure B-5	North Atlantic - April - 90% Probability	B-6
Figure B-6	North Atlantic - April - 75% Probability	B-7
Figure B-7	North Atlantic - April - 50% Probability	B-8
Figure B-8	North Atlantic - April - 25% Probability	B-9
Figure B-9	North Atlantic - July - 90% Probability	B-10
Figure B-10	North Atlantic - July - 75% Probability	B-11
Figure B-11	North Atlantic - July - 50% Probability	B-12
Figure B-12	North Atlantic - July - 25% Probability	B-13
Figure B-13	North Atlantic - October - 90% Probability	B-14
Figure B-14	North Atlantic - October - 75% Probability	B-15

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (CONTINUED)

	<u>Page</u>
Figure B-15	North Atlantic - October - 50% Probability B-16
Figure B-16	North Atlantic - October - 25% Probability B-17
Figure B-17	North Pacific - January - 90% Probability B-18
Figure B-18	North Pacific - January - 75% Probability B-19
Figure B-19	North Pacific - January - 50% Probability B-20
Figure B-20	North Pacific - January - 25% Probability B-21
Figure B-21	North Pacific - April - 90% Probability B-22
Figure B-22	North Pacific - April - 75% Probability B-23
Figure B-23	North Pacific - April - 50% Probability B-24
Figure B-24	North Pacific - April - 25% Probability B-25
Figure B-25	North Pacific - July - 90% Probability B-26
Figure B-26	North Pacific - July - 75% Probability B-27
Figure B-27	North Pacific - July - 50% Probability B-28
Figure B-28	North Pacific - July - 25% Probability B-29
Figure B-29	North Pacific - October - 90% Probability B-30
Figure B-30	North Pacific - October - 75% Probability B-31
Figure B-31	North Pacific - October - 50% Probability B-32
Figure B-32	North Pacific - October - 25% Probability B-33
Figure B-33	Indian Ocean - January - 90% Probability B-34
Figure B-34	Indian Ocean - January - 75% Probability B-35
Figure B-35	Indian Ocean - January - 50% Probability B-36
Figure B-36	Indian Ocean - January - 25% Probability B-37
Figure B-37	Indian Ocean - April - 90% Probability B-38
Figure B-38	Indian Ocean - April - 75% Probability B-39
Figure B-39	Indian Ocean - April - 50% Probability B-40
Figure B-40	Indian Ocean - April - 25% Probability B-41
Figure B-41	Indian Ocean - July - 90% Probability B-42
Figure B-42	Indian Ocean - July - 75% Probability B-43
Figure B-43	Indian Ocean - July - 50% Probability B-44
Figure B-44	Indian Ocean - July - 25% Probability B-45
Figure B-45	Indian Ocean - October - 90% Probability B-46
Figure B-46	Indian Ocean - October - 75% Probability B-47
Figure B-47	Indian Ocean - October - 50% Probability B-48
Figure B-48	Indian Ocean - October - 25% Probability B-49

NEPHANALYSIS - Percentage Frequency of
Cloud Cover $\geq 7/8$

Figure C-1	North Atlantic - January	C-2
Figure C-2	North Atlantic - April	C-3
Figure C-3	North Atlantic - July	C-4
Figure C-4	North Atlantic - October	C-5
Figure C-5	North Pacific - January	C-6
Figure C-6	North Pacific - April	C-7

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (CONCLUDED)

		<u>Page</u>
Figure C-7	North Pacific - July	C-8
Figure C-8	North Pacific - October	C-9
Figure C-9	Indian Ocean - January	C-10
Figure C-10	Indian Ocean - April	C-11
Figure C-11	Indian Ocean - April	C-12
Figure C-12	Indian Ocean - October	C-13

NEPHANALYSIS - Percentage Frequency of
Total Cloud Cover $\leq 2/10$

Figure D-1	North Atlantic - January	D-2
Figure D-2	North Atlantic - April	D-3
Figure D-3	North Atlantic - July	D-4
Figure D-4	North Atlantic - October	D-5
Figure D-5	North Pacific - January	D-6
Figure D-6	North Pacific - April	D-7
Figure D-7	North Pacific - July	D-8
Figure D-8	North Pacific - October	D-9
Figure D-9	Indian Ocean - January	D-10
Figure D-10	Indian Ocean - April	D-11
Figure D-11	Indian Ocean - July	D-12
Figure D-12	Indian Ocean - October	D-13

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

This atlas has been prepared in support of the Optical Environmental Study conducted by the MITRE Corporation for the Naval Research Devense Laboratory (NRDL). The climatological analysis presented in this paper is intended to support the atmospheric transmission task of the study but is provided in a format that is generally applicable to a wide range of naval engineering and operational planning activities.

The study provides a climatological analysis of visibility and total cloud cover for each of the mid-season months of January, April, July, and October. The geographical areas of interest were selected based upon their significance to naval operations. They are the North Atlantic Ocean, the North Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

SECTION II
METEOROLOGICAL VISIBILITY

Middleton (Reference 1) has summarized the meteorological visibility observation technique as follows: "Visibility is the greatest distance in a given direction at which it is just possible to see and identify with the unaided eye: in the daytime a prominent dark object against the sky at the horizon; and at night, a known preferably unfocused, moderately intense light source. After visibilities have been determined around the entire horizon circle, they are resolved into a single value of prevailing visibility for reporting purposes."

The directives for the observation and encoding of visibility are contained in the Manual of Surface Observations (WBAN), "Circular N," and are consistent with the international procedures coordinated through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). "Circular N" defines the prevailing visibility as the greatest visibility which is attained or surpassed throughout half of the horizon circle, not necessarily continuous. Under non-uniform conditions, the sectors may be distributed in any order. Under uniform conditions, the prevailing visibility is the same as the visibility in any direction. If the visibility is variable, i.e., the prevailing visibility rapidly increases and decreases one or more reportable value during the period of observation, the average is used.

The meteorological visibility observation is intended for visual range estimates over flat horizontal paths only and, because of the general lack of uniformity of the atmosphere in the lower levels, it is not a reliable indicator of the slant range visibility.

RELIABILITY OF VISIBILITY OBSERVATIONS

The observation of meteorological visibility is highly subjective. Inland and coastal stations have an advantage in having fixed objects and light sources at known distances to help determine visual range

Ships at sea have neither reference markers nor trained observers. Although no quantitative analysis has been made, it may be assumed that during daytime, ship visibility observations are probably overestimated for the short visual ranges (less than three miles), and underestimated for longer distances.

A major area of concern is night time observations at sea. Without moonlight, observation is practically impossible. The acceptable practice is to continue to record the last valid visibility observation until such time as there is sufficient light to observe a change. The diurnal variation of visibility over the ocean is probably negligible because diurnal variations in the thermal stratification are small and thus, little diurnal change in the wind or aerosol distribution is expected.

ISOVISIC ANALYSIS

The term "Isovisic" (adjective Isovisic) was coined by Eldridge (Reference 2) to describe the analysis of visibilities to provide lines of constant visibility.

An isovisic chart is based upon the assumption that visibility is a conservative parameter with respect to space or time. While it is very difficult to validate the conservation between observational points with "real-time," synoptic data, the statistical nature of climatological visibility data lends itself to such an analysis.

SECTION III

NEPHANALYSIS

A nephanalysis is a cloud cover analysis resulting in contours of equal cloudiness or percentage frequency of selected cloud cover intervals. The percentage frequency of cloud cover for amounts less than or equal to two tenths, and for amounts greater than or equal to seven eighths, is provided to supplement the visibility data in the evaluation of transmissivity.

Cloud observation procedures are standardized in "Circular N." Observational bias can be expected due to the difficulty of distinguishing between cloud sides and cloud bottoms at low angles of view. The bias is generally one of overestimating the percentage of cloud cover.

SECTION IV

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS STUDIED

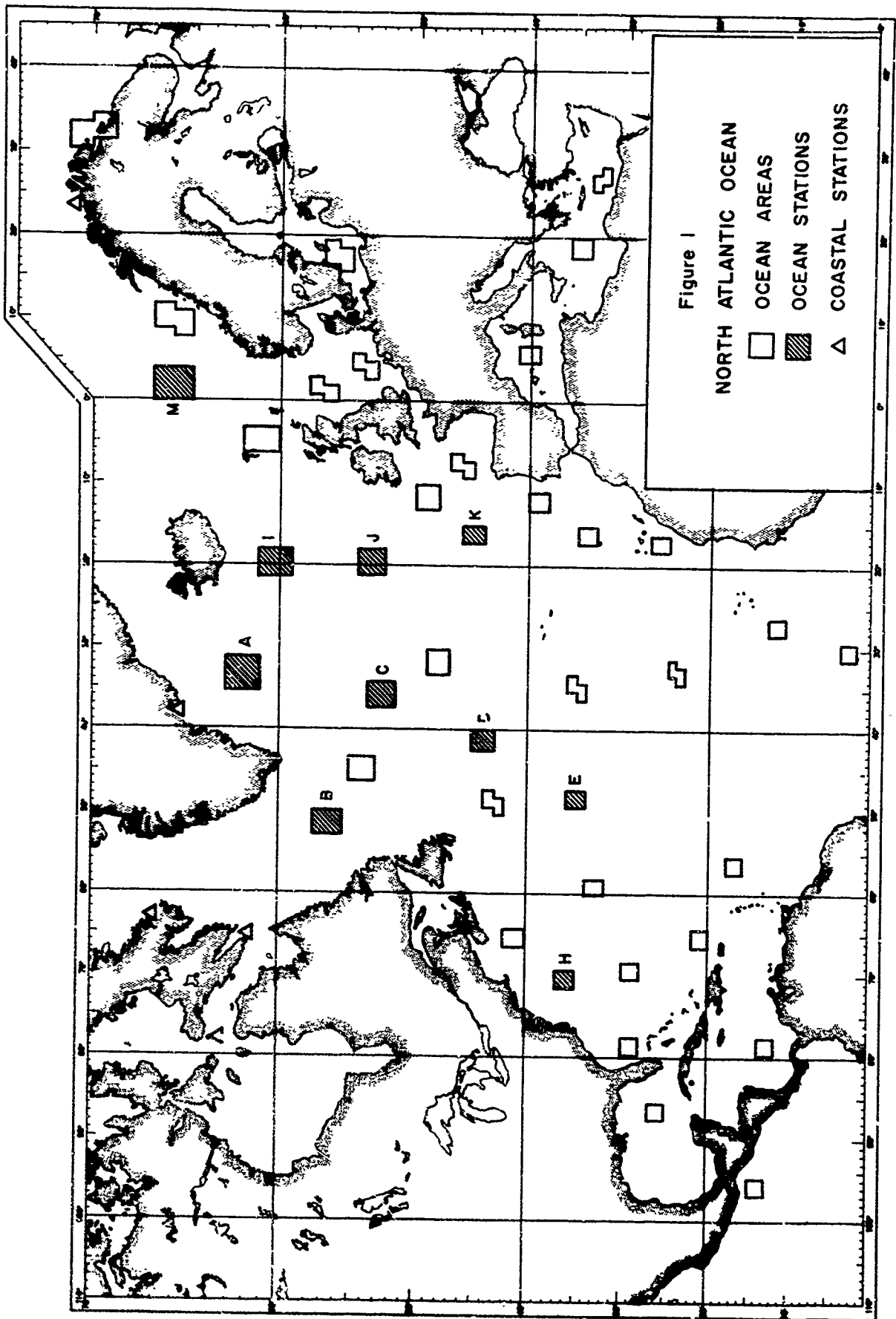
Based upon the validity and reliability of the available climatological studies and upon a determination of areas of operational significance an analysis was made of three ocean areas. The areas and principle reference documents are as follows:

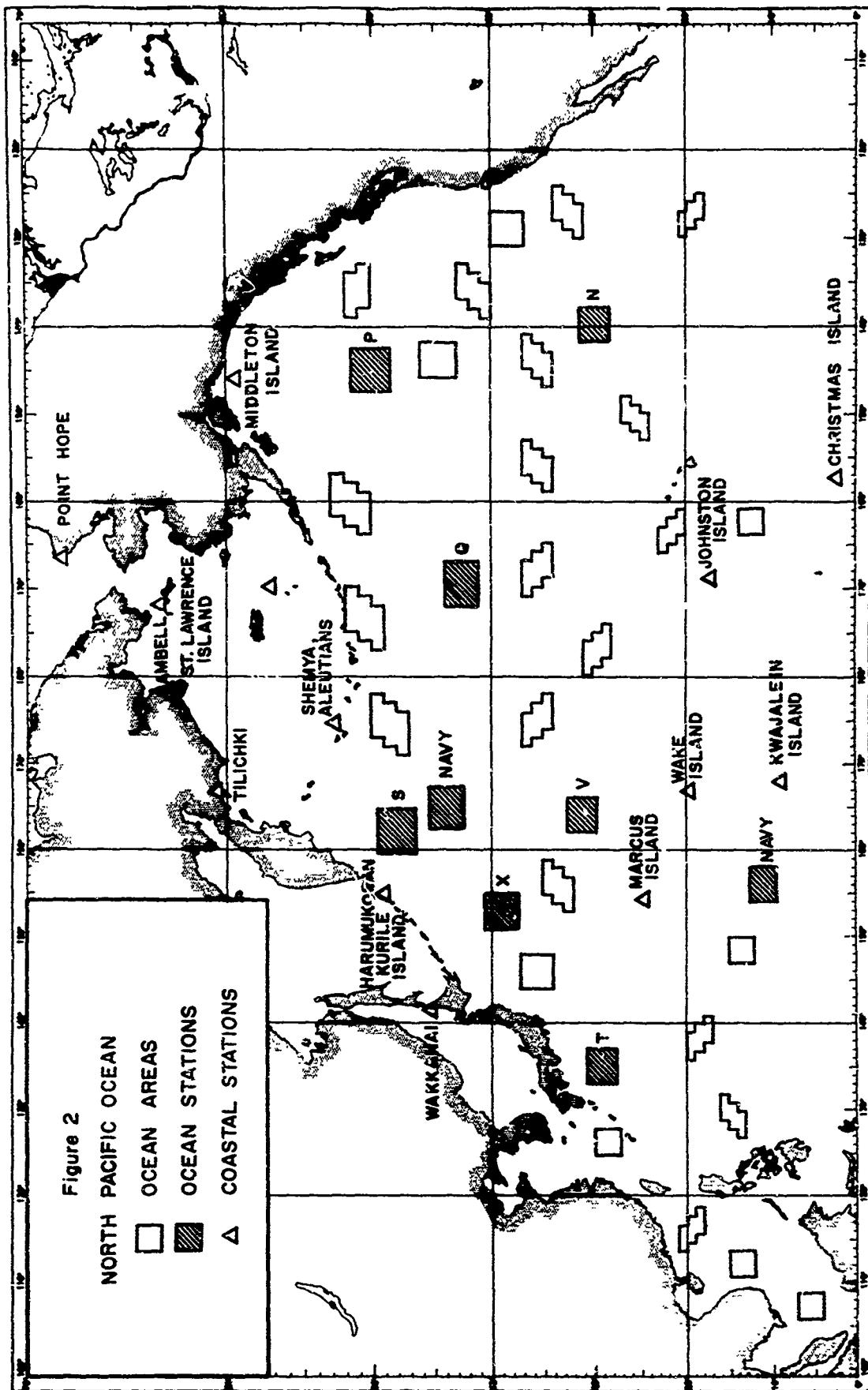
- a. North Atlantic - U.S. Navy Marine Climatic Atlas of the World, Volume I, North Atlantic Ocean, NAVAER 50-IC-528, 1 July 1956.
- b. North Pacific - U.S. Navy Marine Climatic Atlas of the World, Volume II, North Pacific Ocean, NAVAER 50-IC-529, 1 July 1956.
- c. Indian Ocean - U.S. Navy Marine Climatic Atlas of the World, Volume III, Indian Ocean, NAVAER 50-IC-530, 1 September 1957.

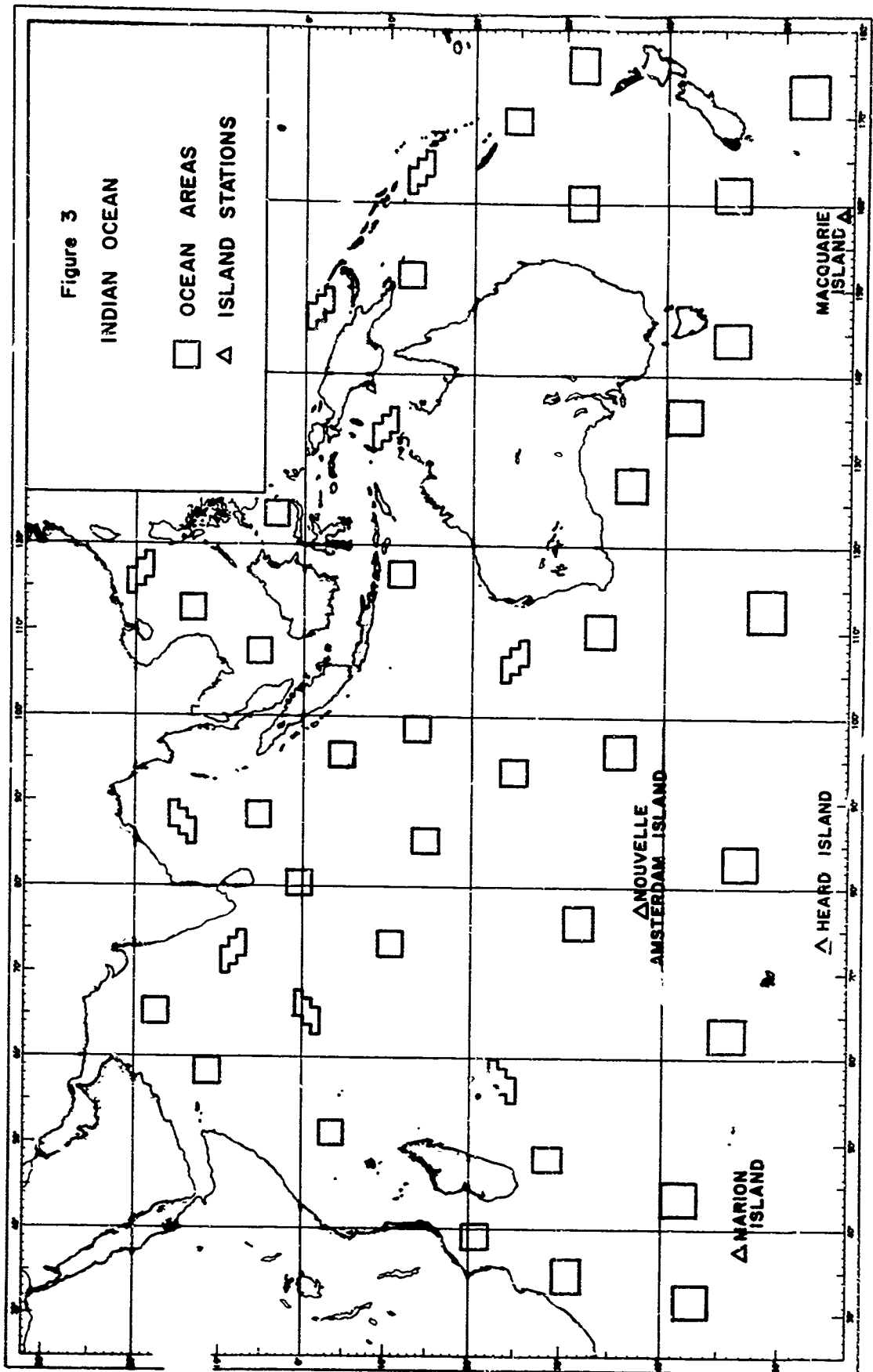
For each of the oceanic areas, the NAVAER Climatic Atlas provides cumulative percentage frequency distributions of horizontal visibility and total cloud cover for approximately 50 data points. Figures 1 through 3 illustrate the data points from coast and island stations, ocean stations (weather stations) and small ocean areas representative of a relatively homogeneous climatic region. Areas where the climatological data is scarce are identified as jagged boxes.

The number of observations used in the NAVAER series to provide the percentage frequency distributions is unknown but includes all the available data from the National Weather Records Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

Over the Indian Ocean dashed contours have been used to indicate areas requiring more subjective analysis due to the availability or reliability of the data.







SECTION V

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANALYSIS

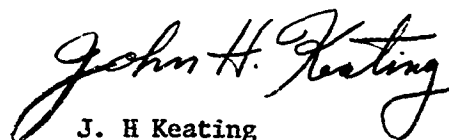
For each of the three geographical areas and for the mid-season months of January, April, July, and October, the visibility and cloud cover analysis is present in four basic forms, each form in a separate Appendix as follows:

a. Appendix A - Isovisic maps providing contours of percentage frequency of the visibility falling into one of the following five categories: less than 25 nm, less than 10 nm, less than 5 nm, less than two nm, and less than one nm.

b. Appendix B - Isovisic maps providing contours of visibility for each of four categories of probability; 90 percent, 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent.

c. Appendix C - Nephanalysis providing contours of percentage frequency of total cloud cover greater than or equal to seven eights ($\geq 7/8$).

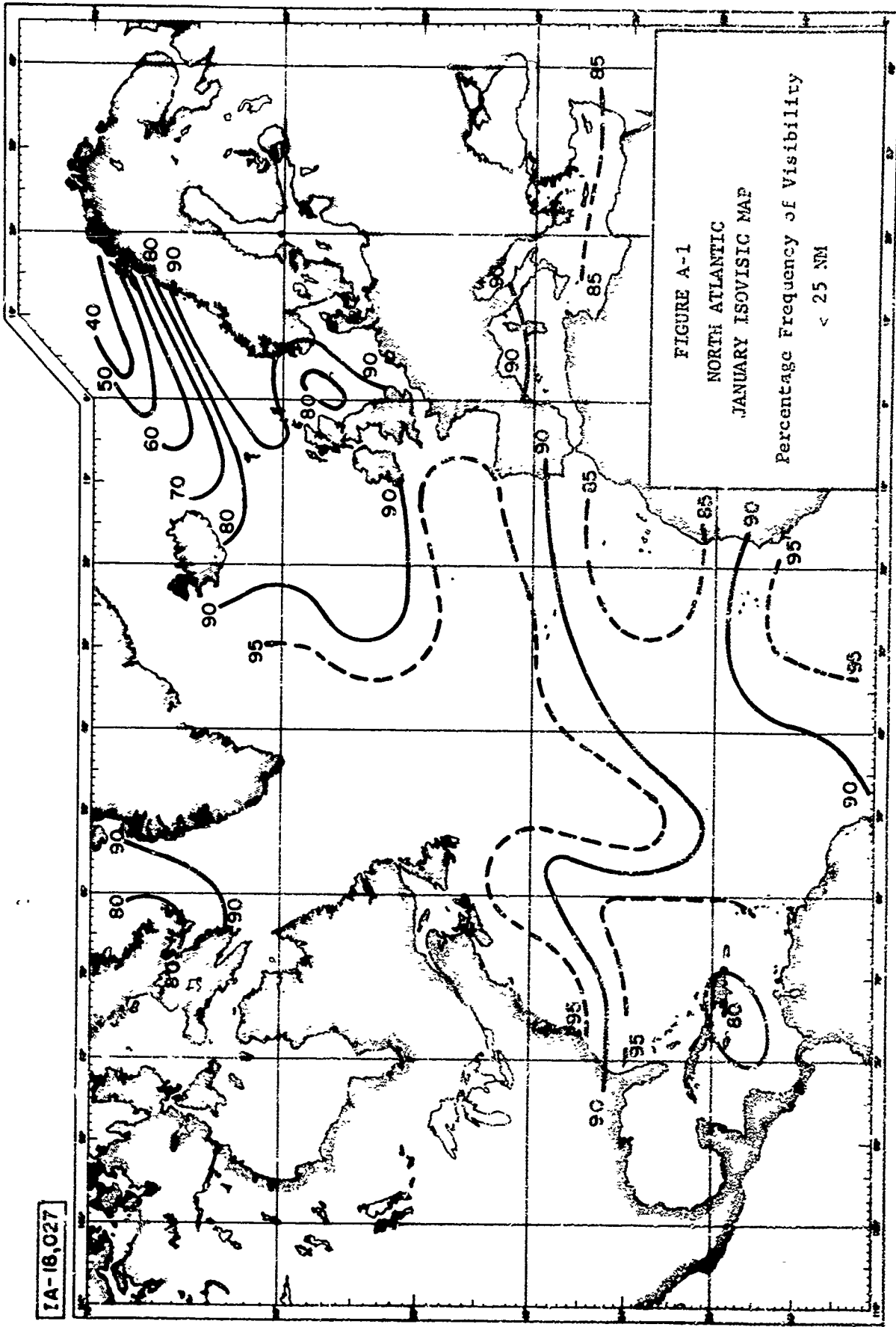
d. Appendix D - Nephanalysis providing contours of percentage frequency of total cloud cover equal to or less than two tenths ($\leq 2/10$).


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Strategic Systems

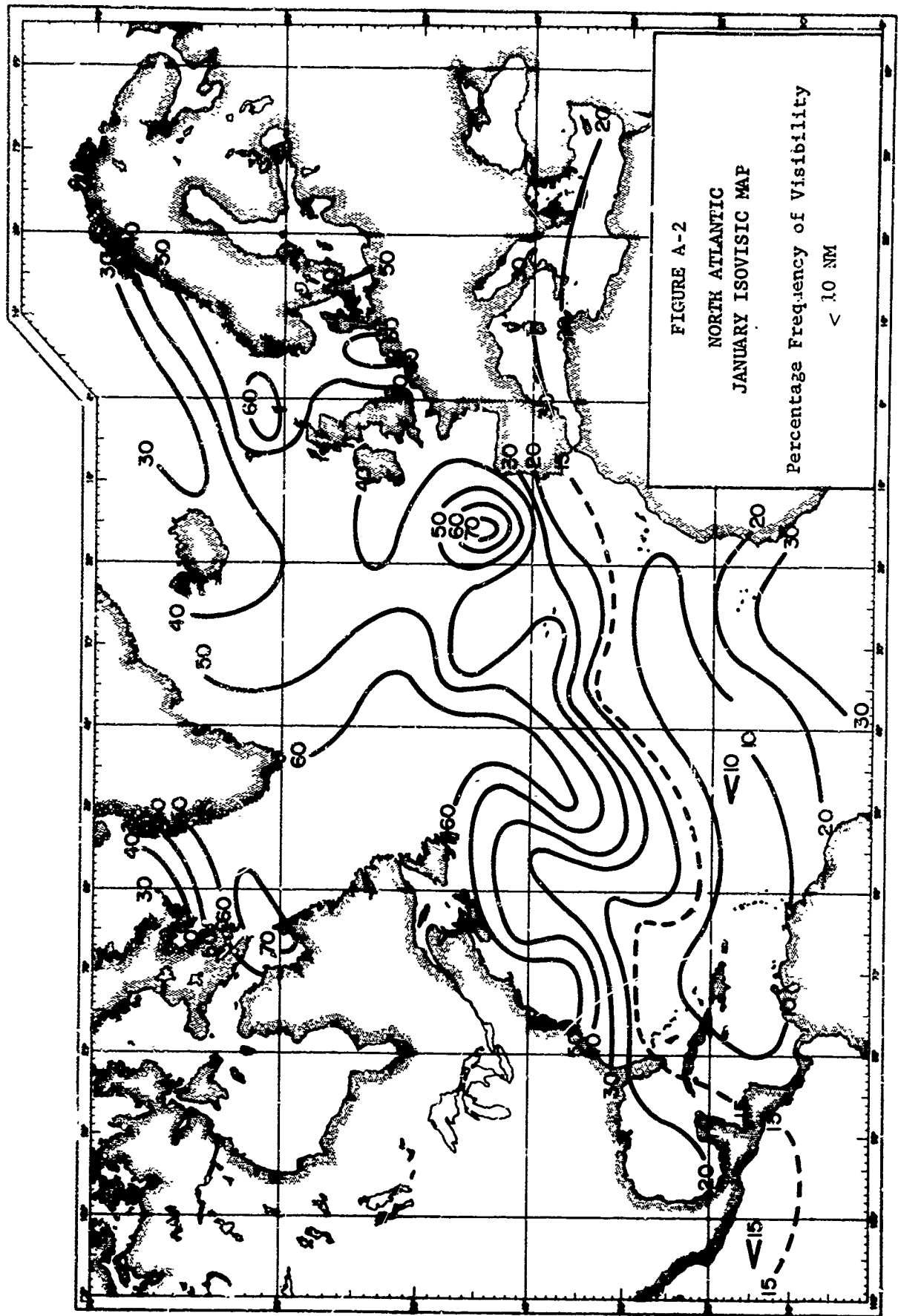
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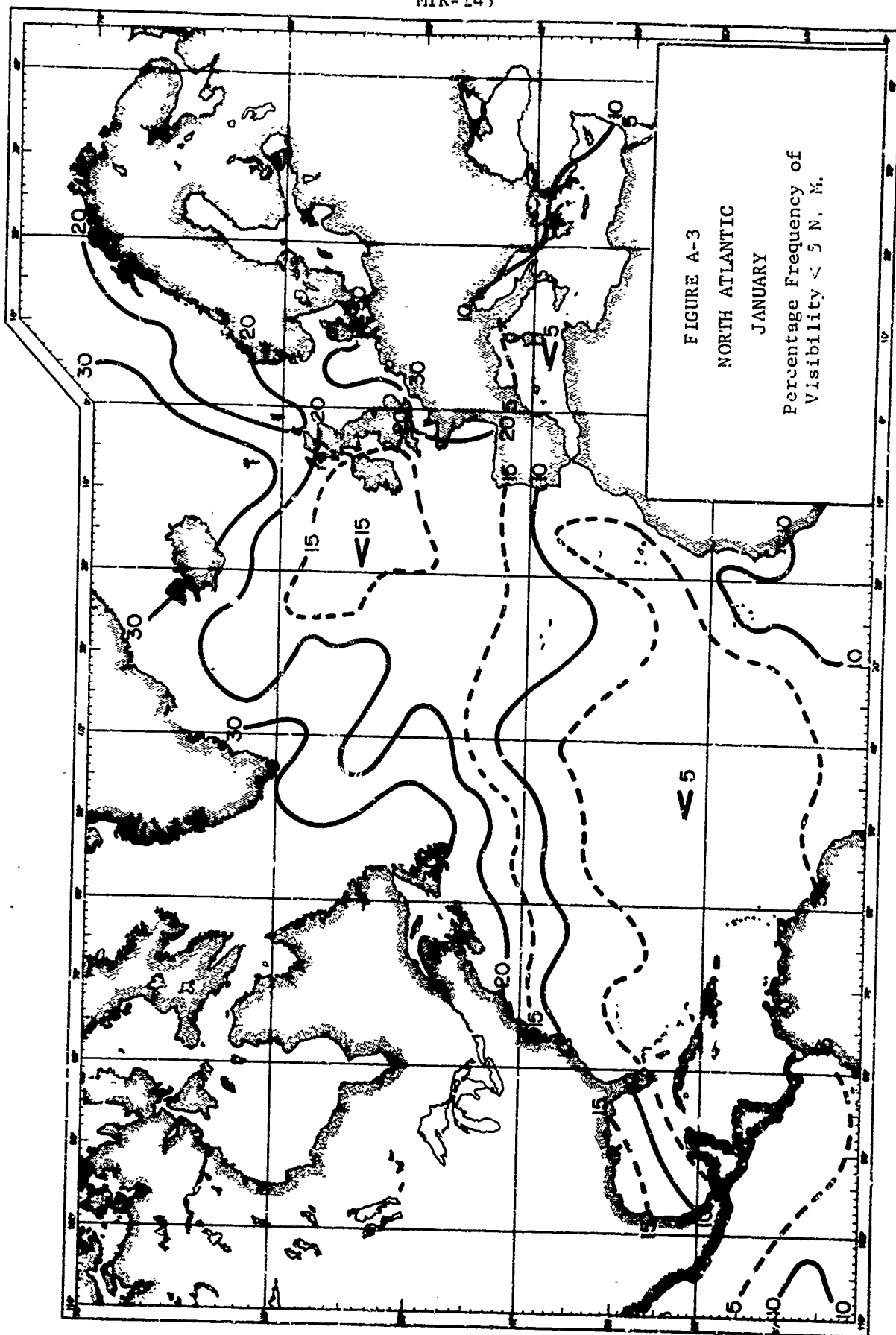
APPENDIX A

ISOVISIC MAPS - PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF VISIBILITIES LESS
THAN 25, 10, five, two and one Nautical Miles

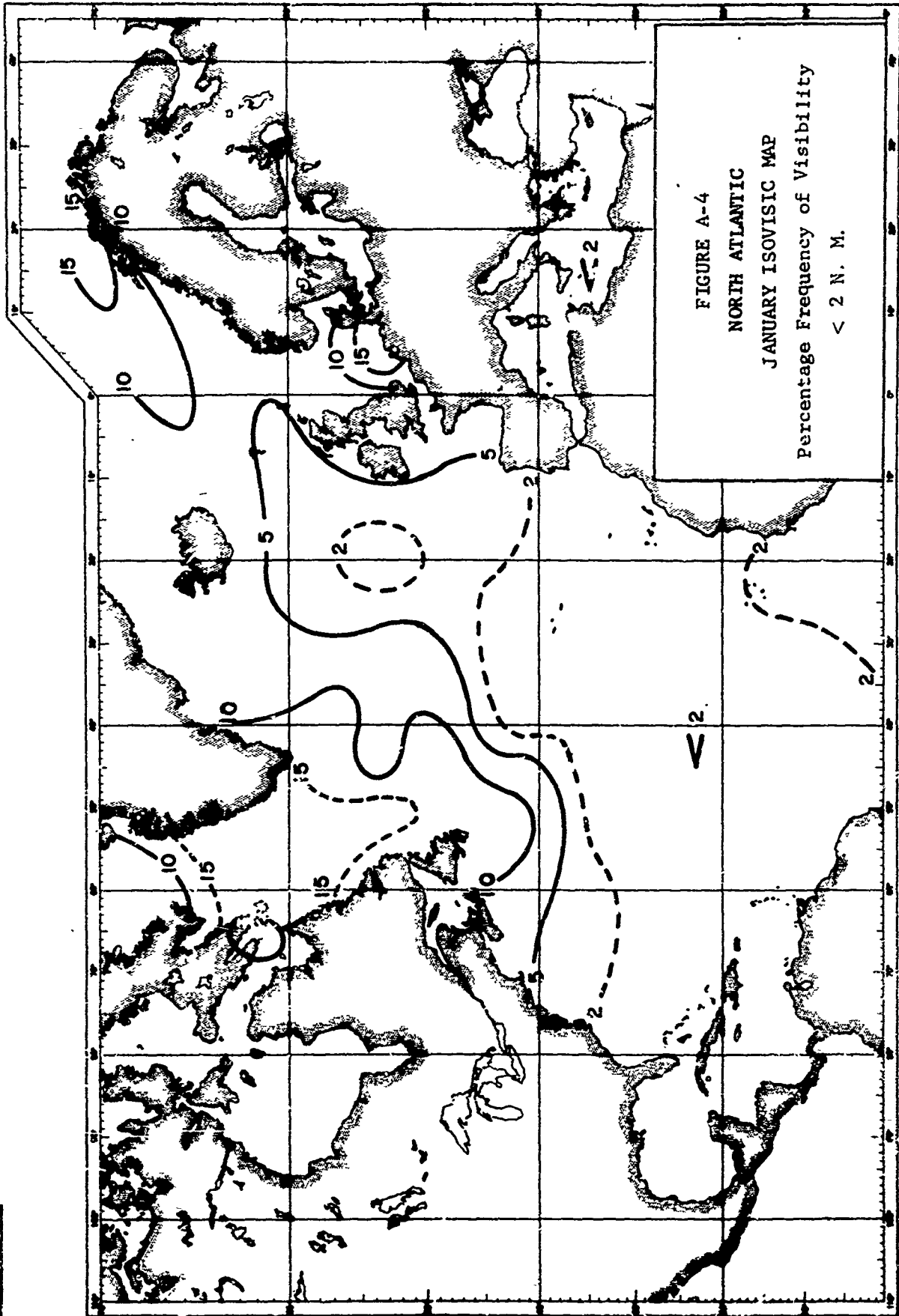


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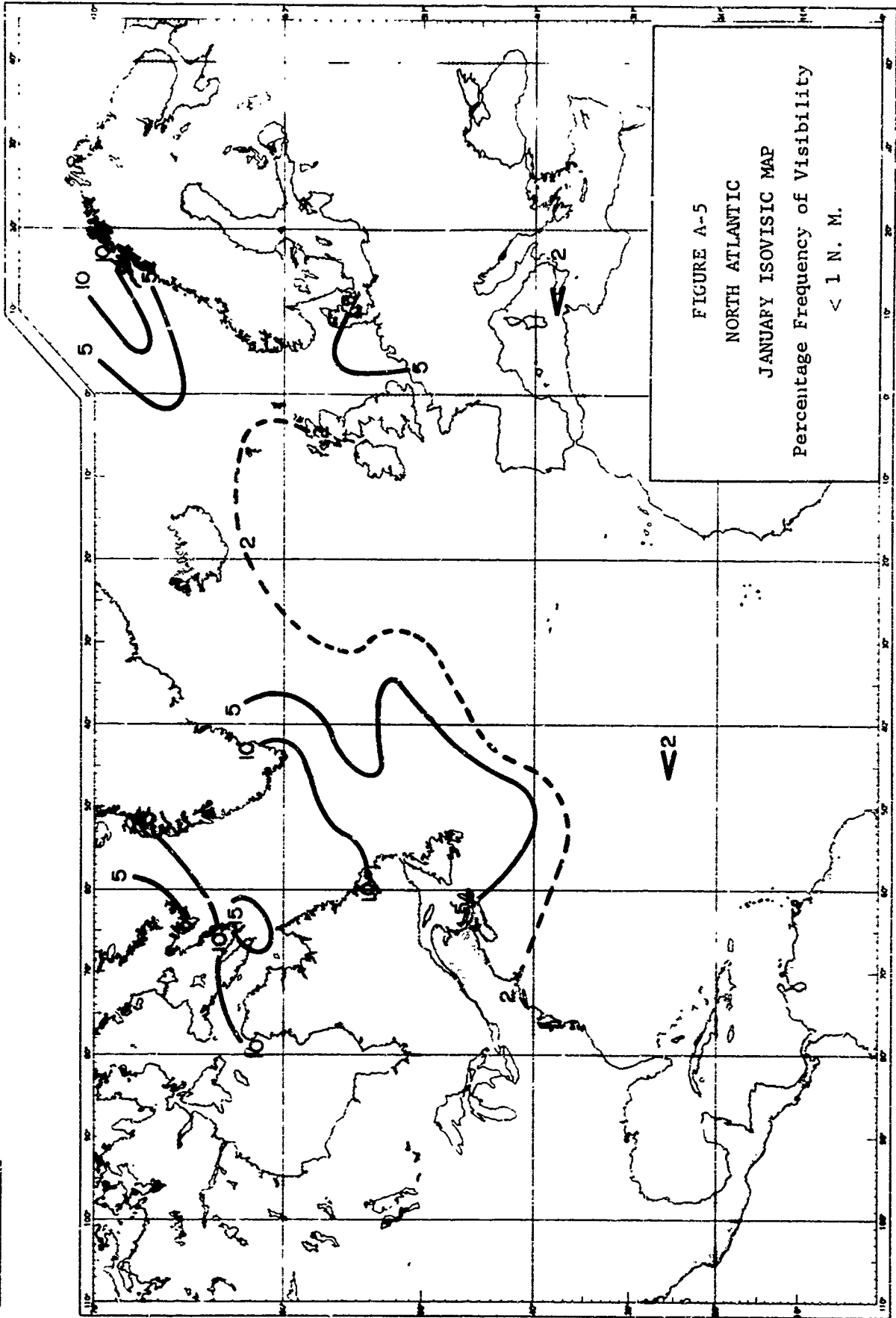


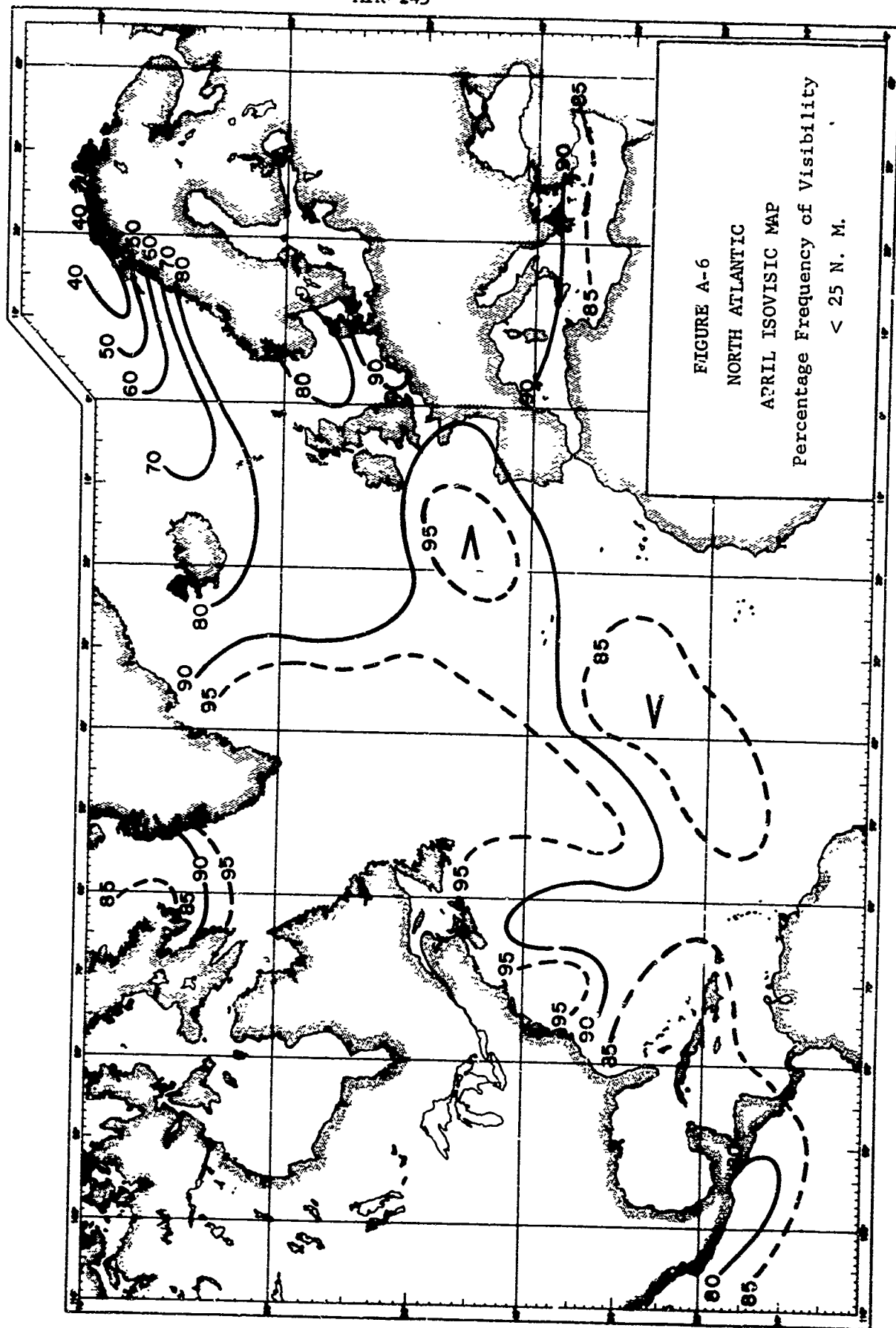
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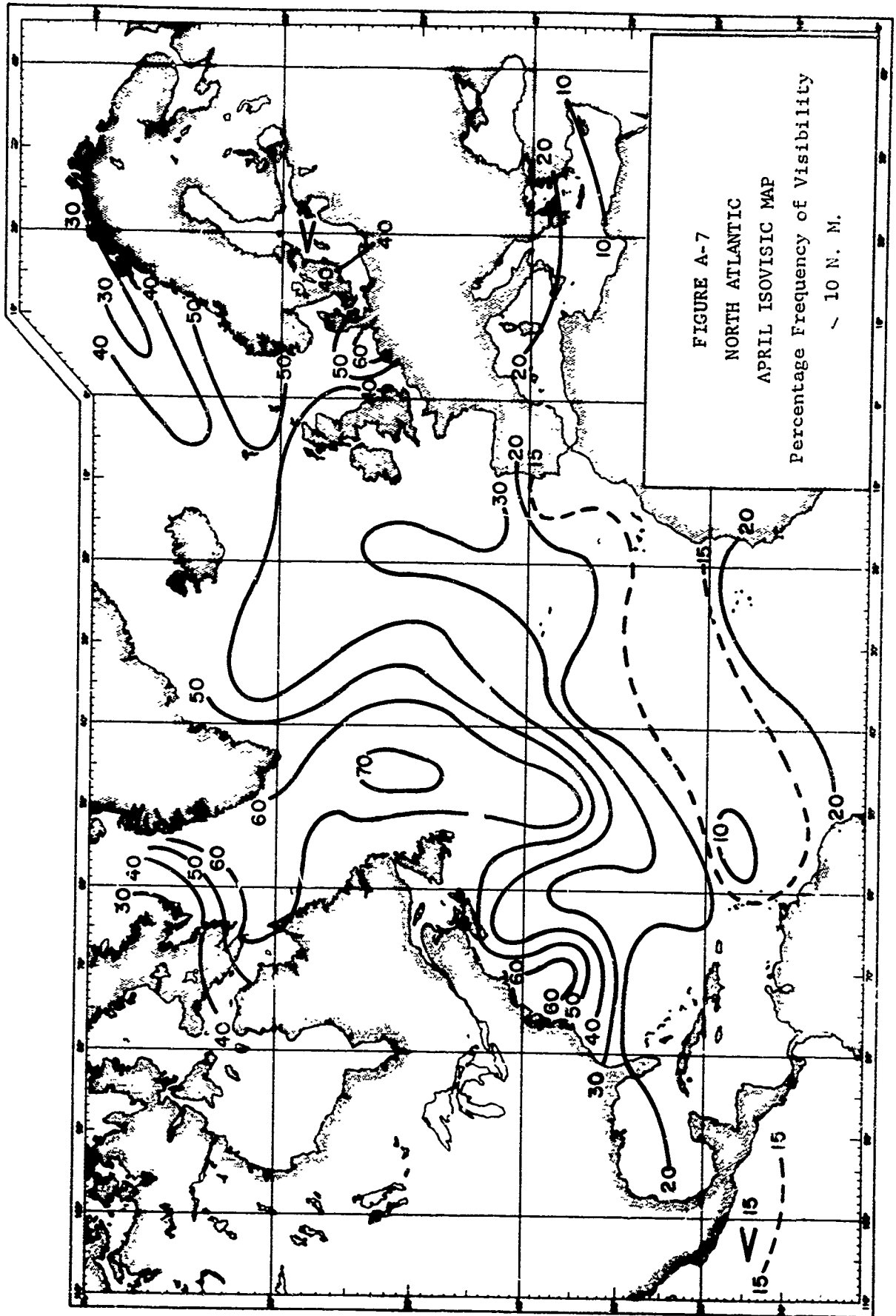
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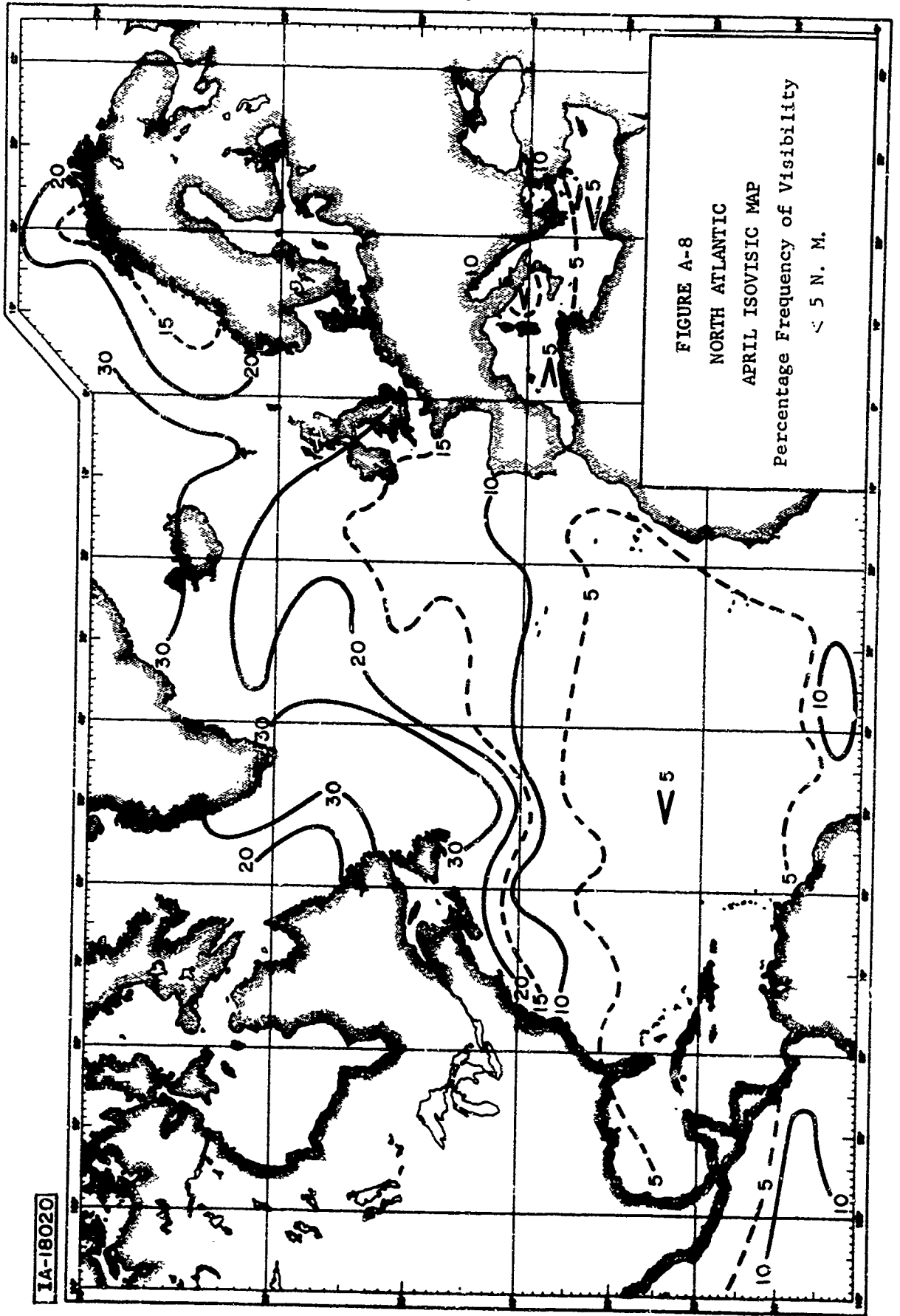


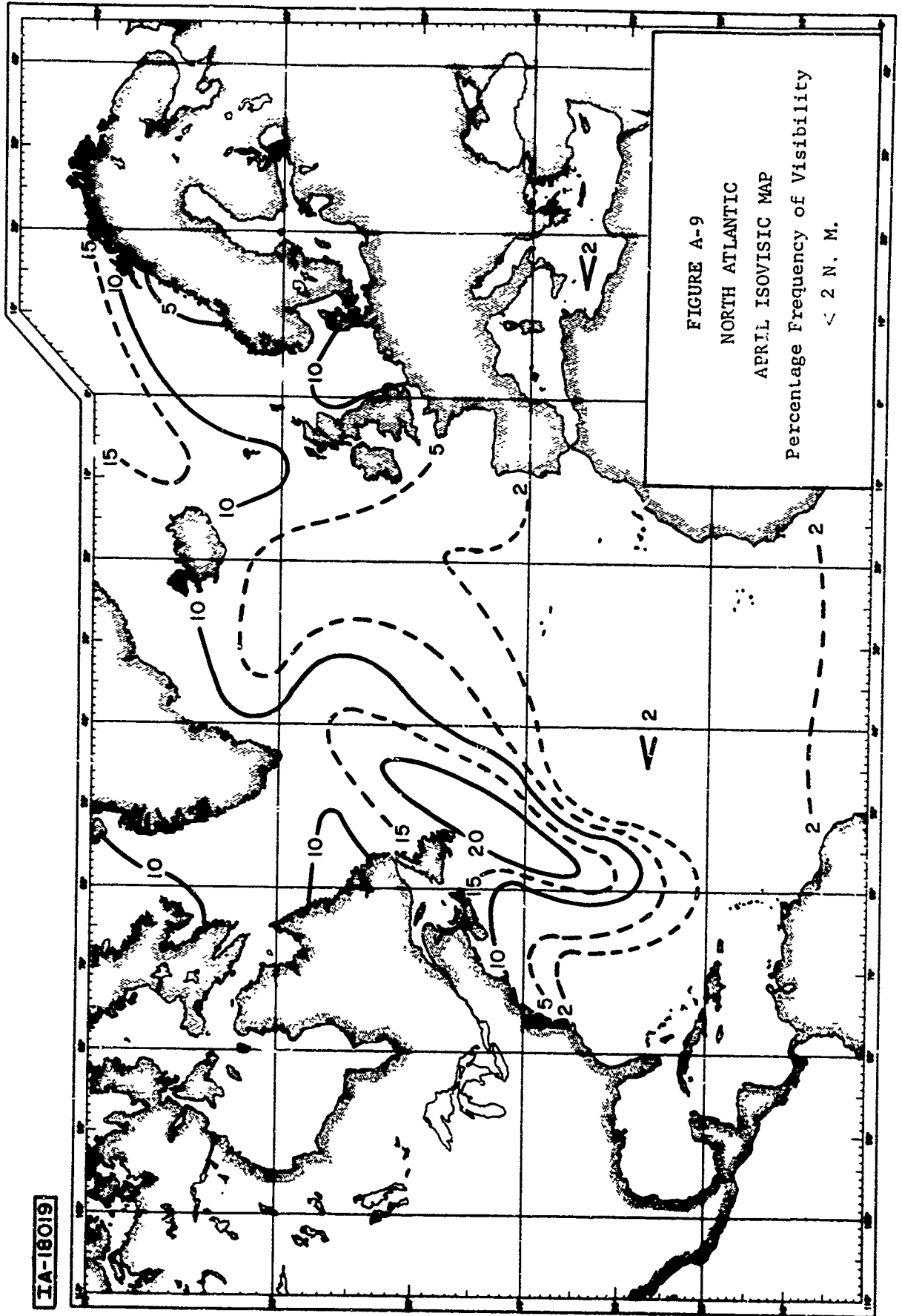


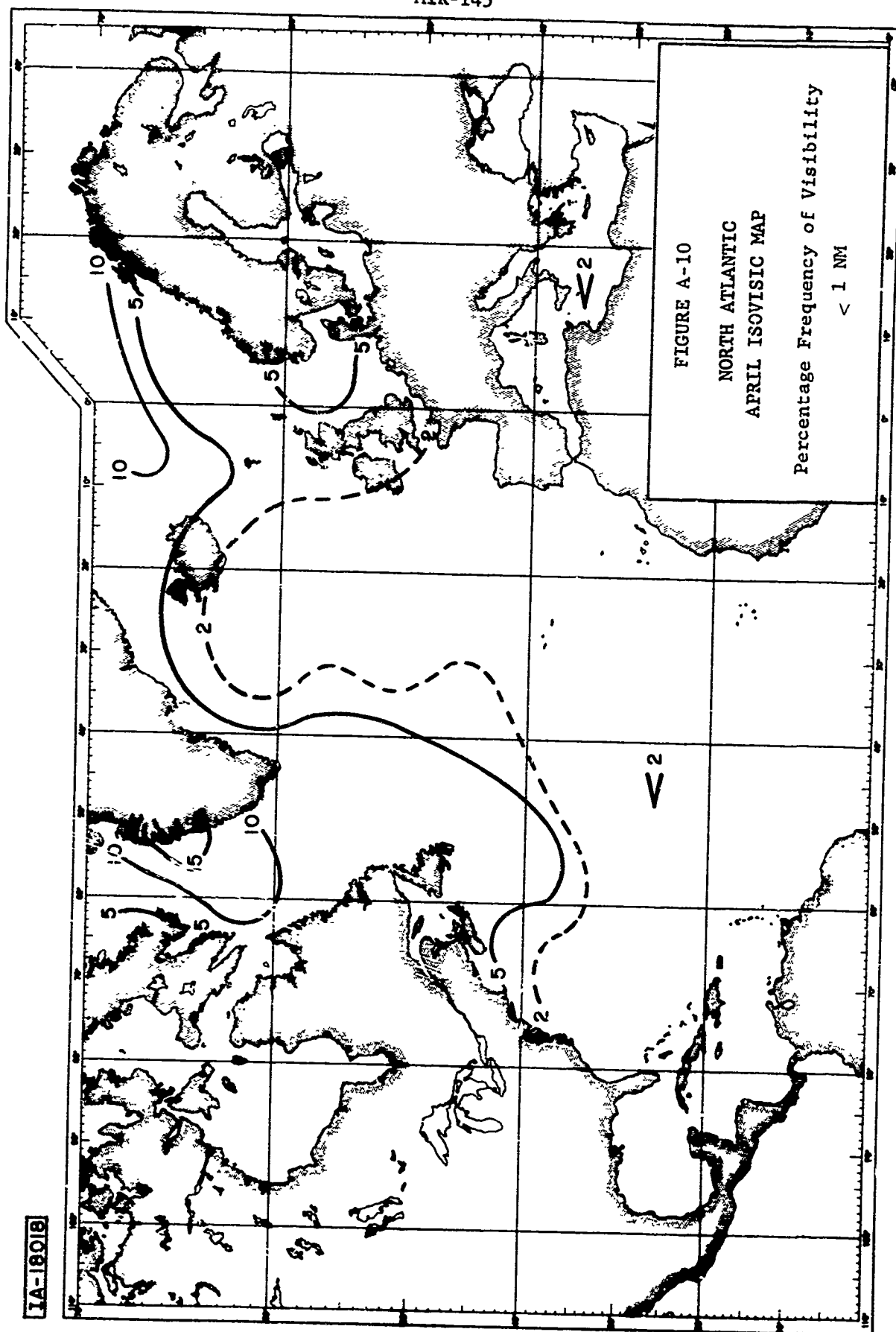
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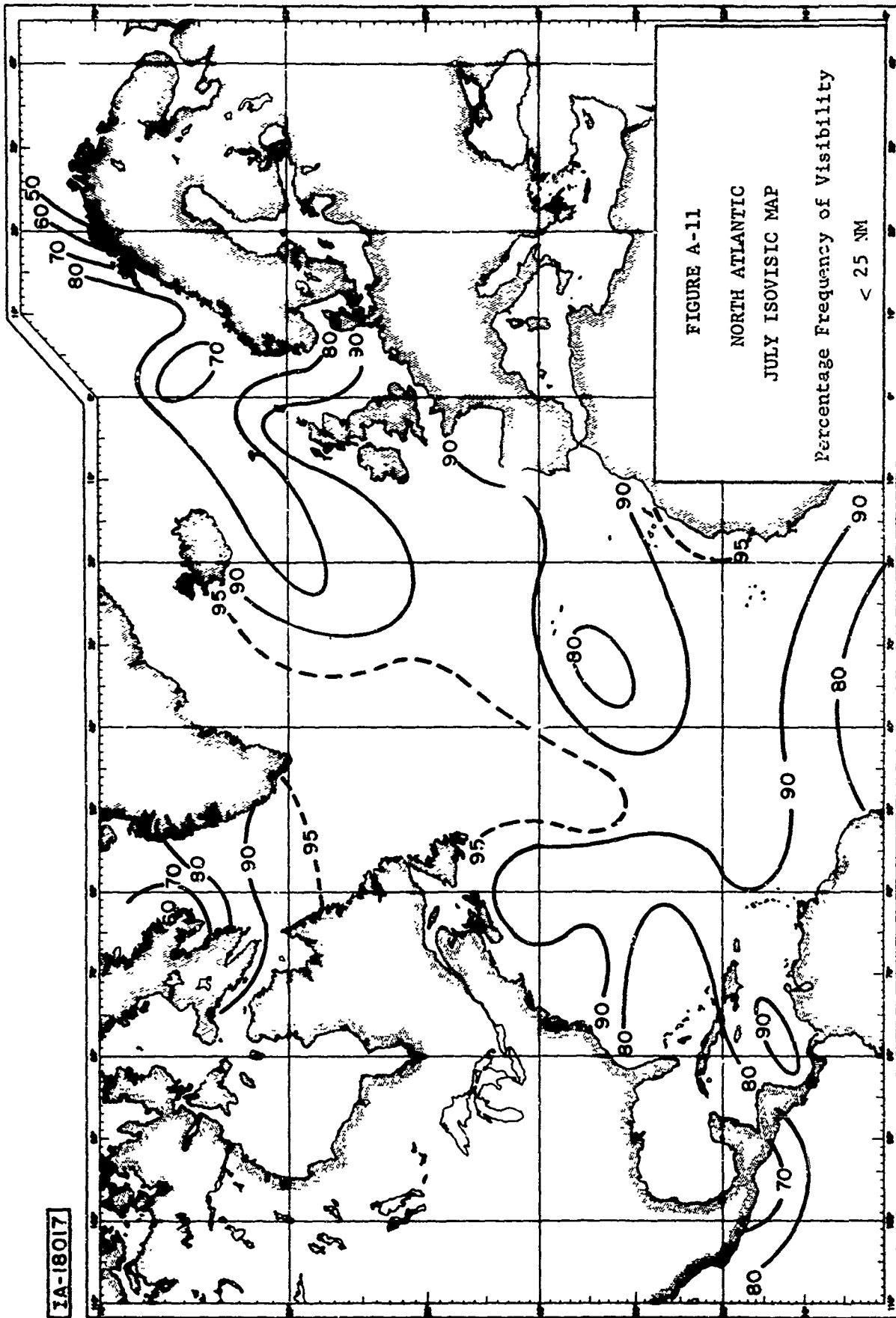
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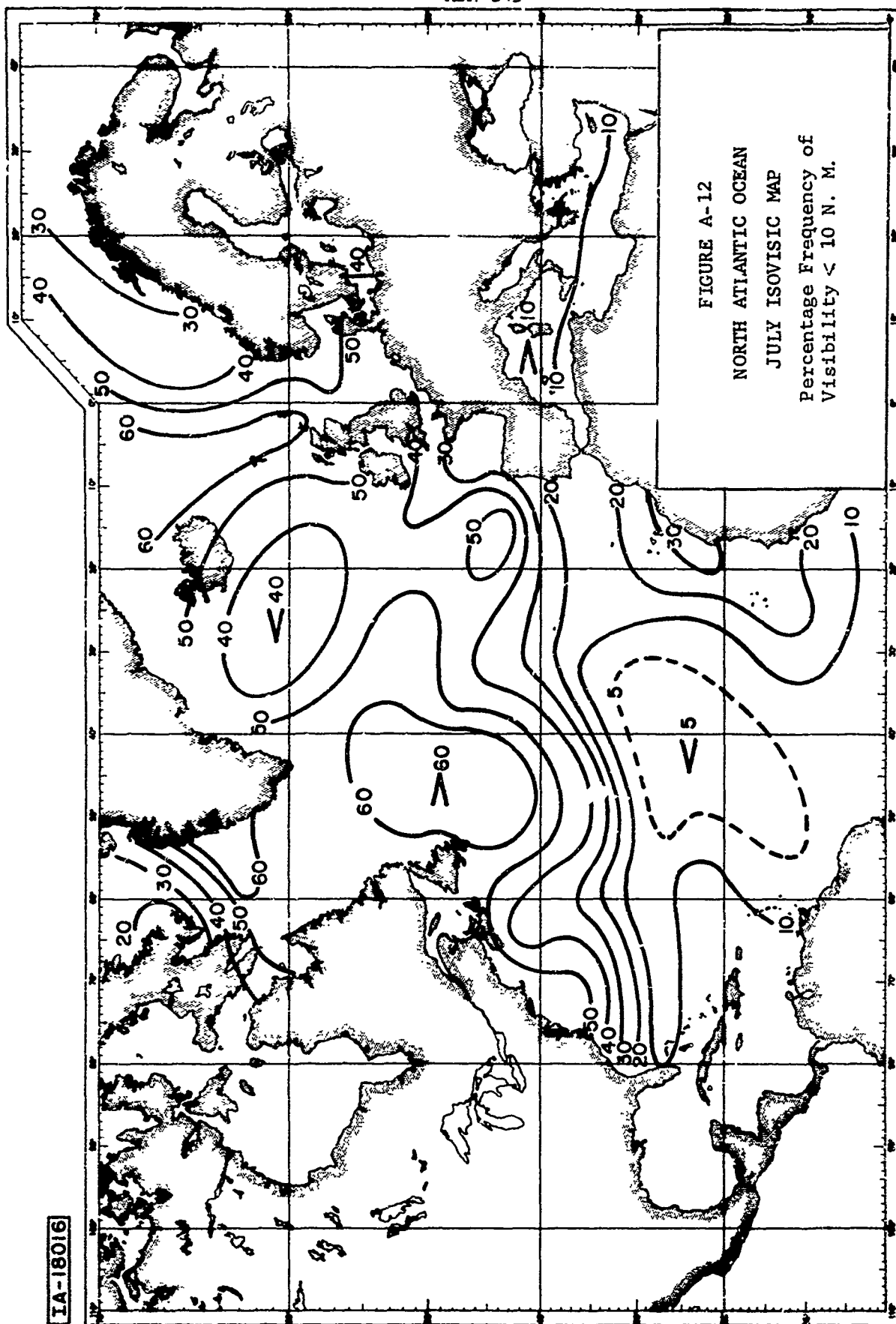


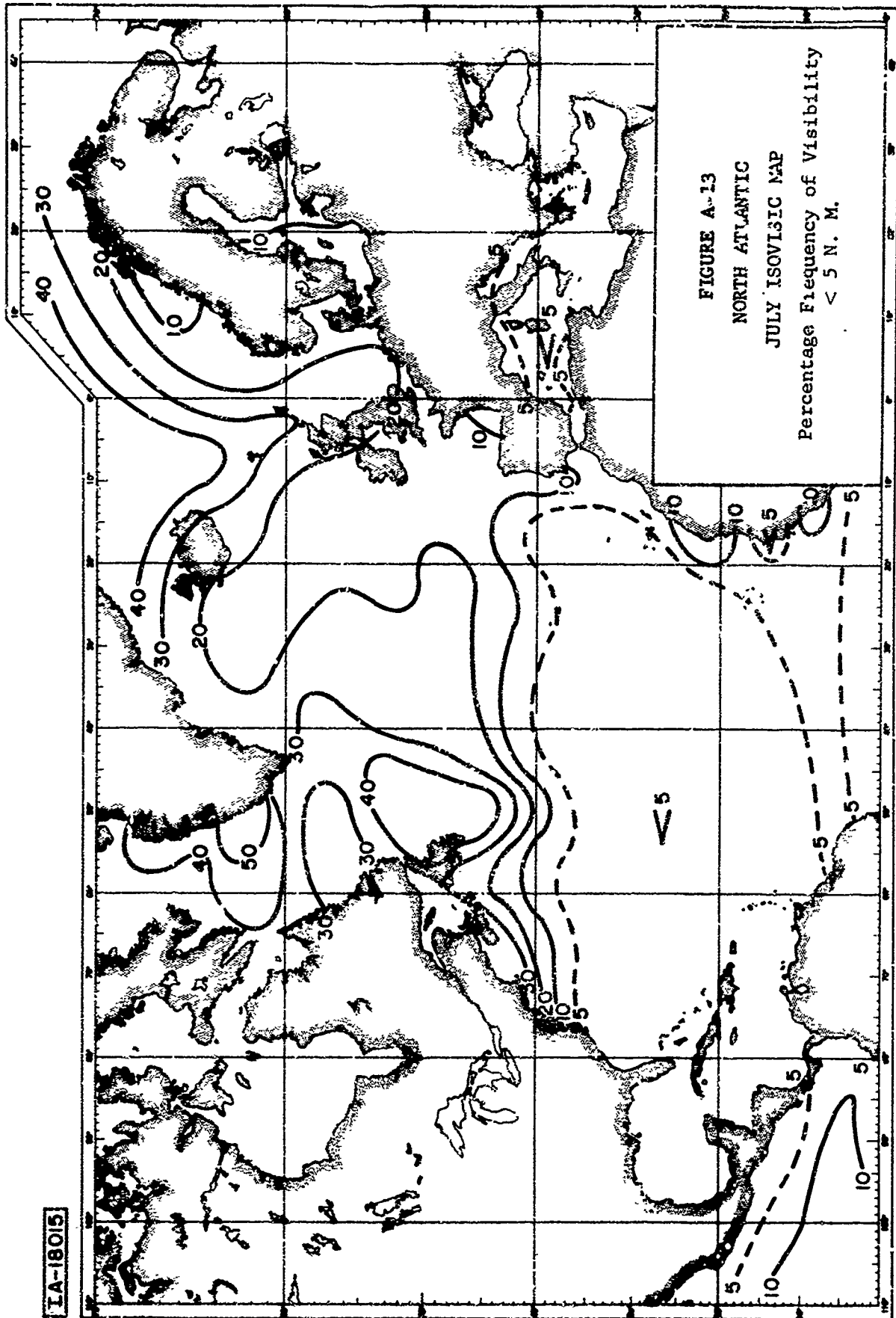


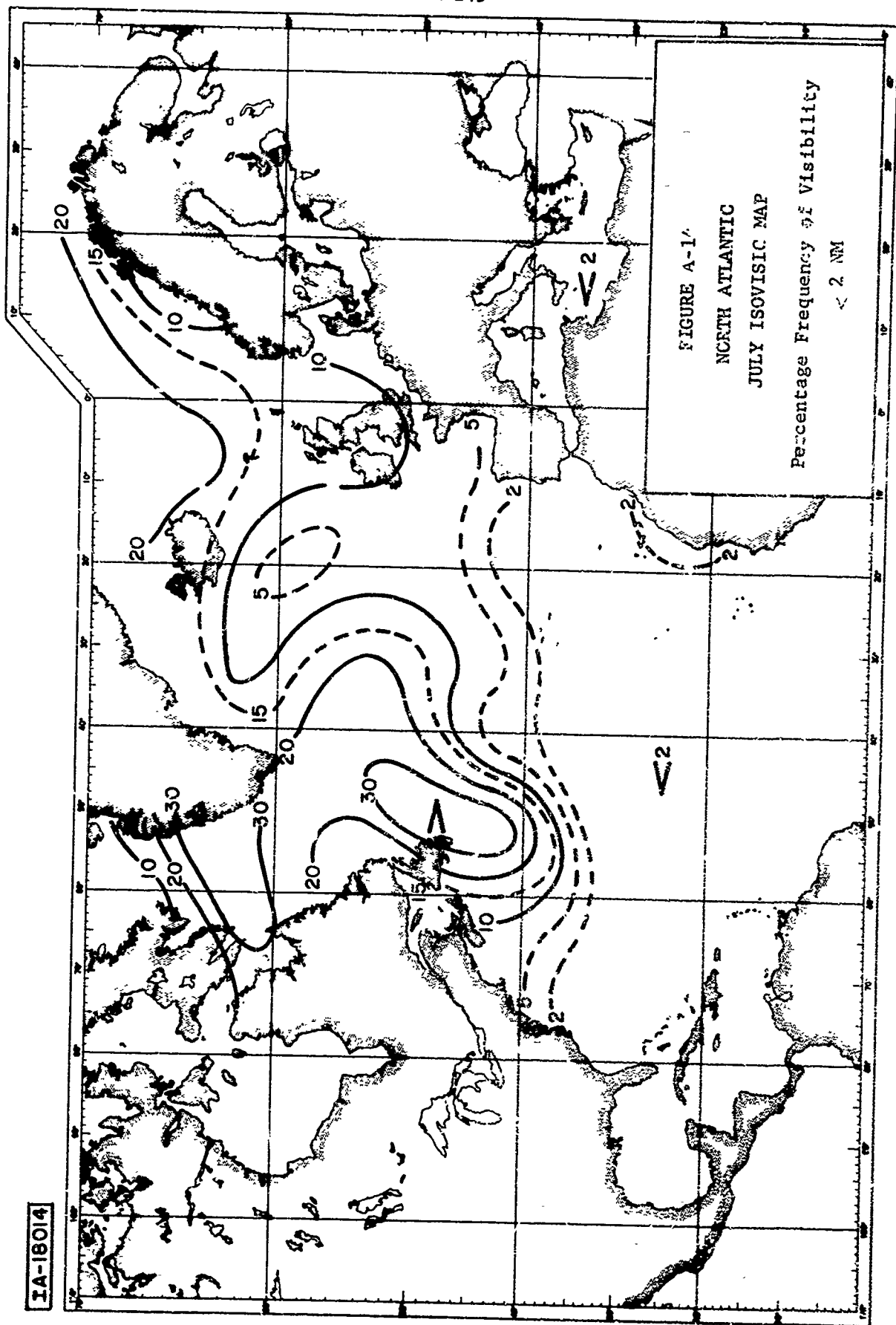


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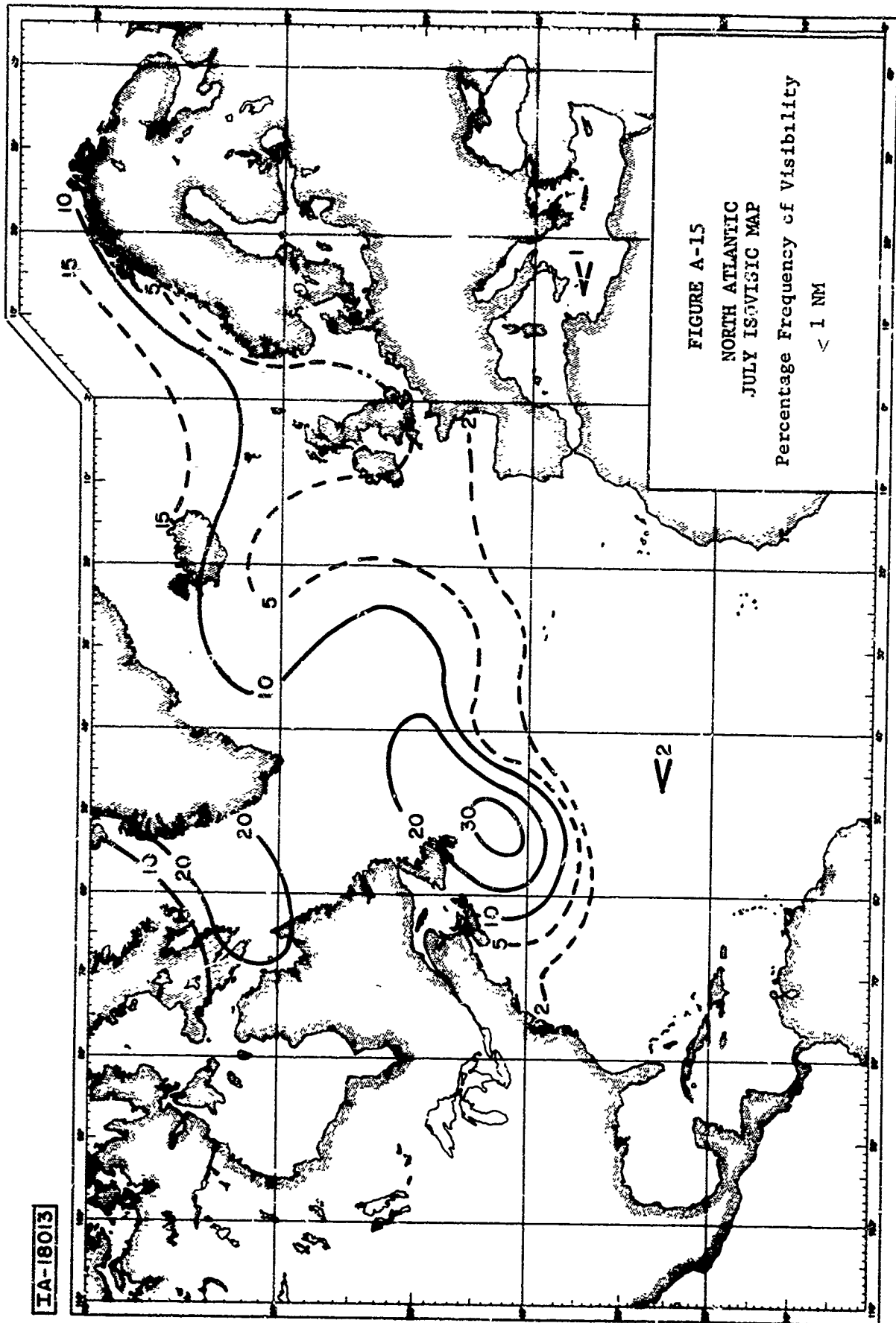


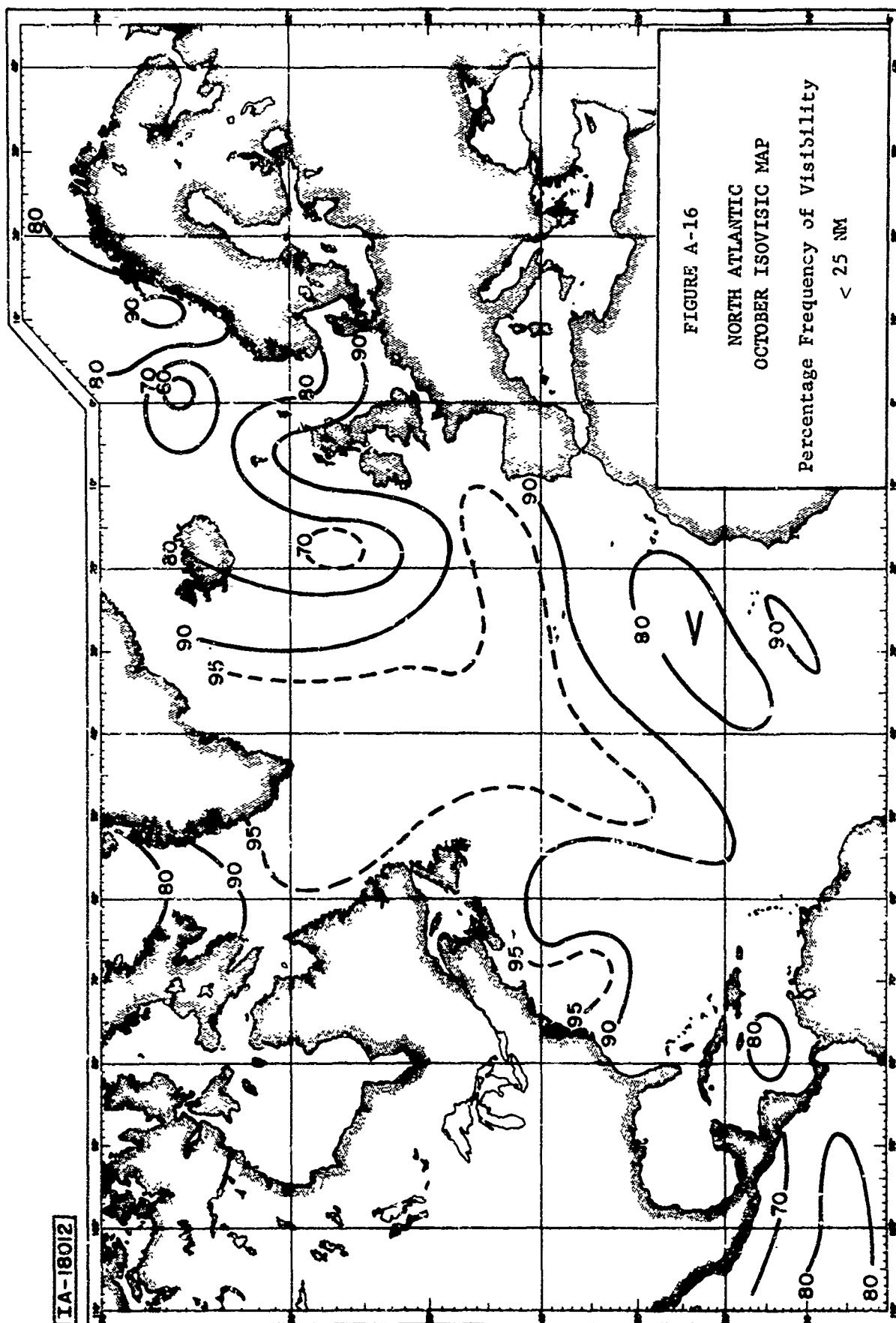


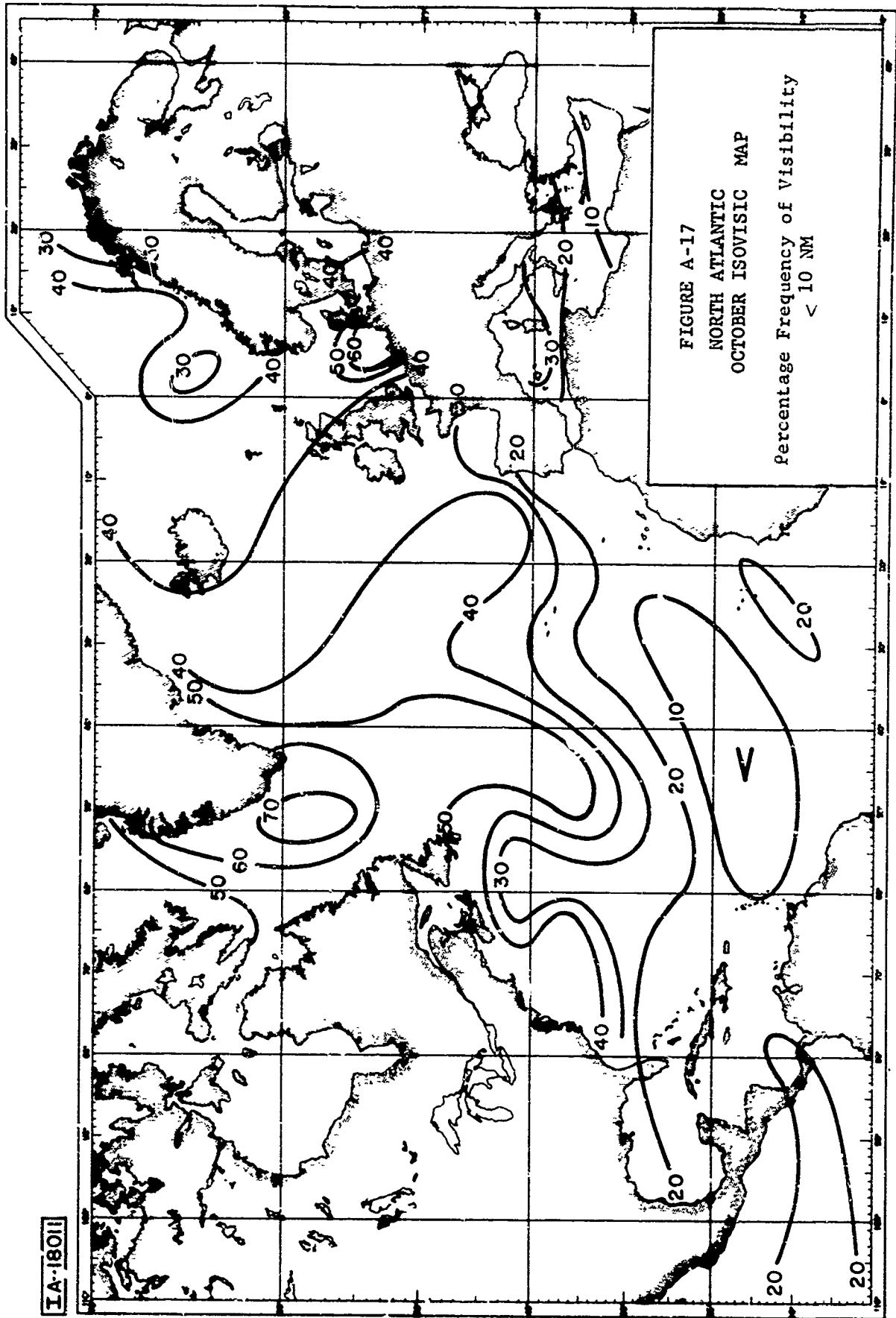


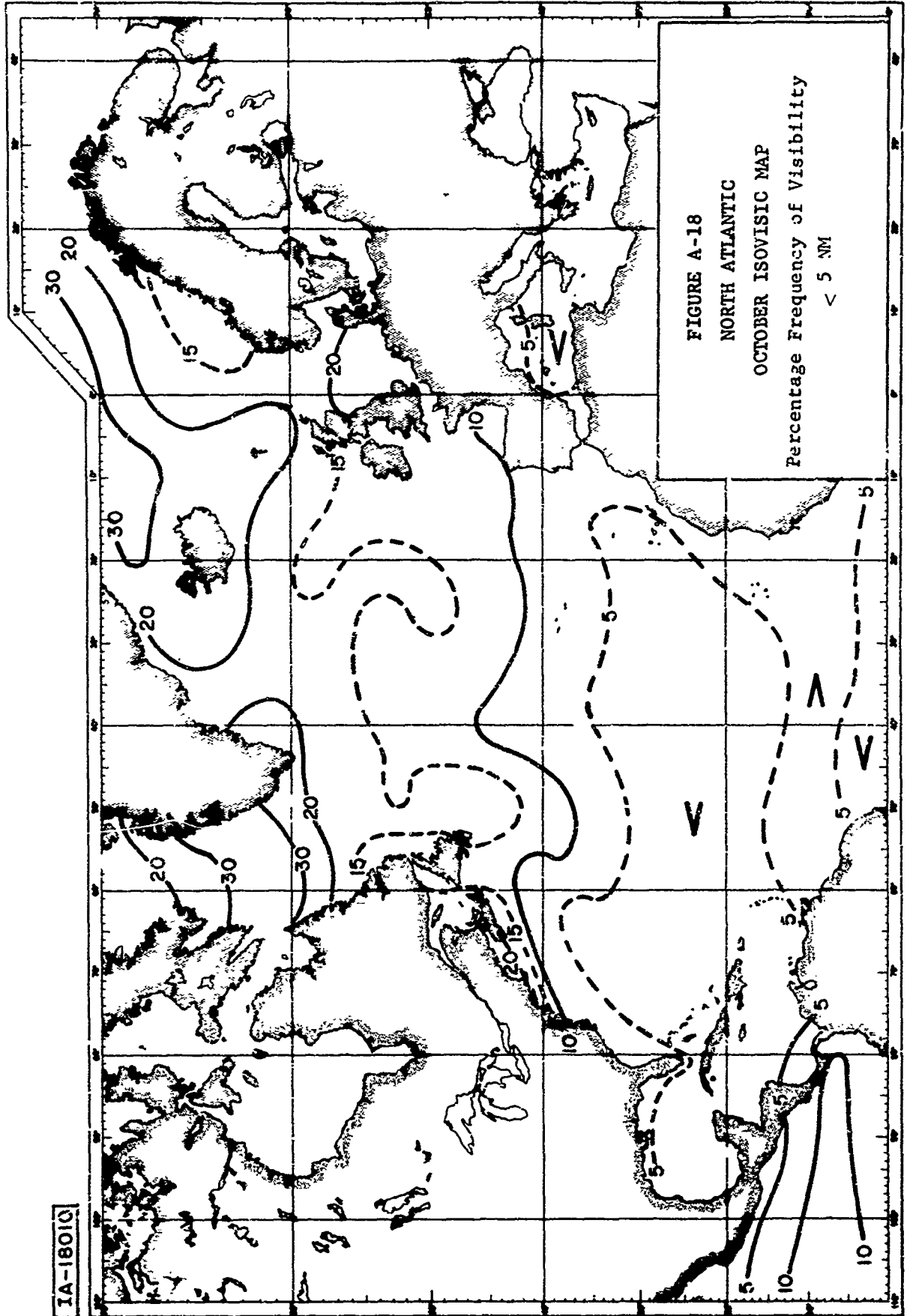


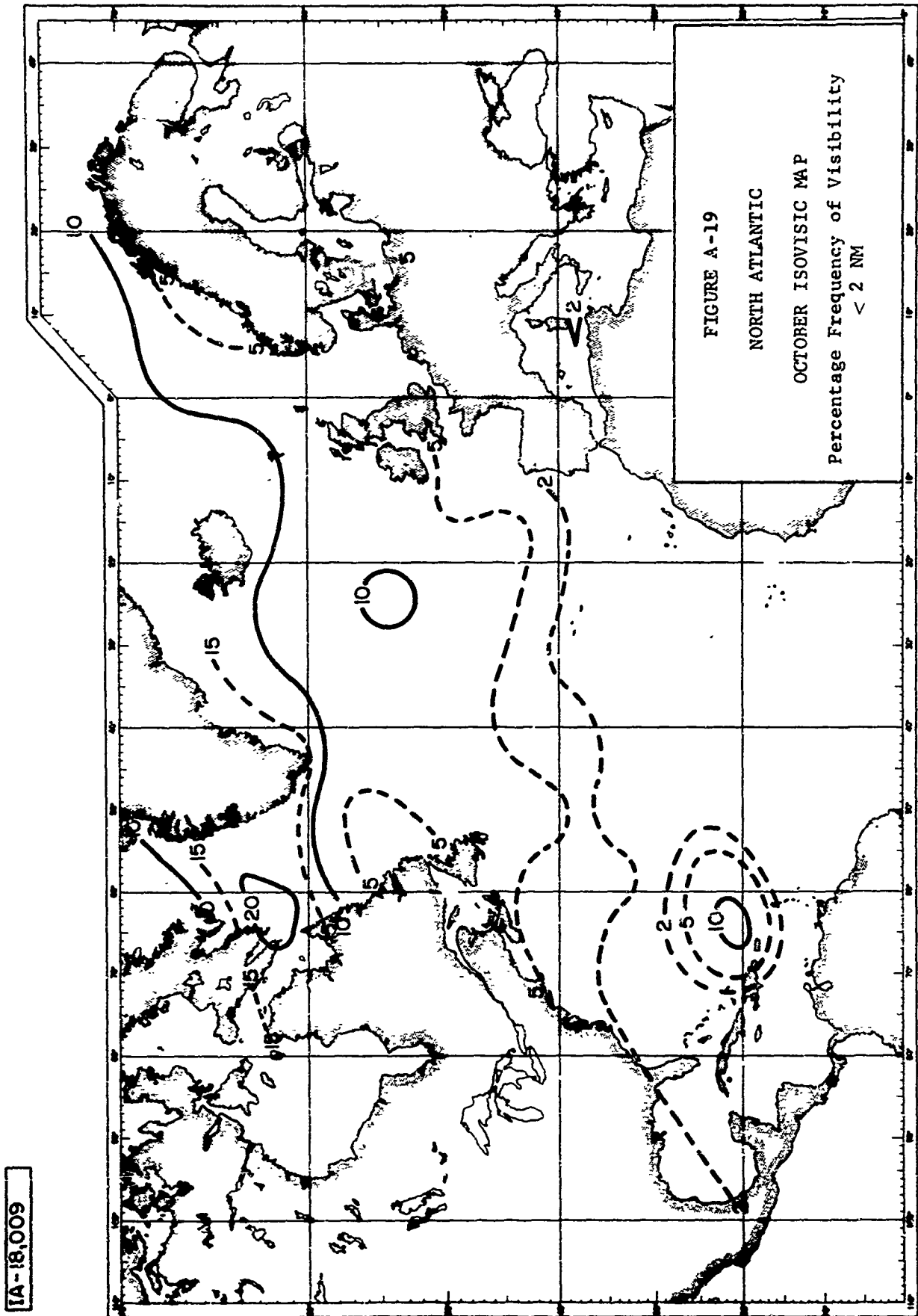
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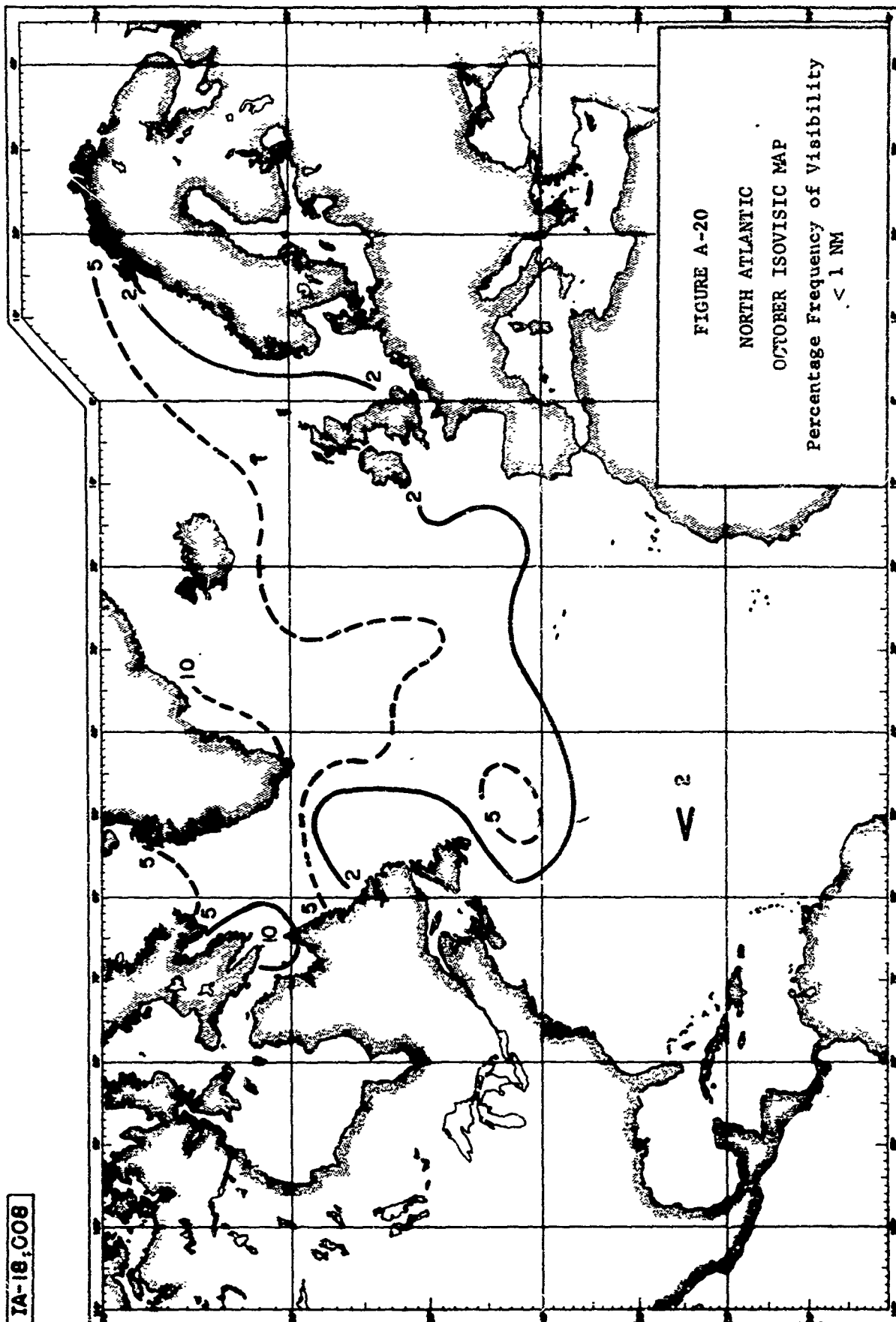


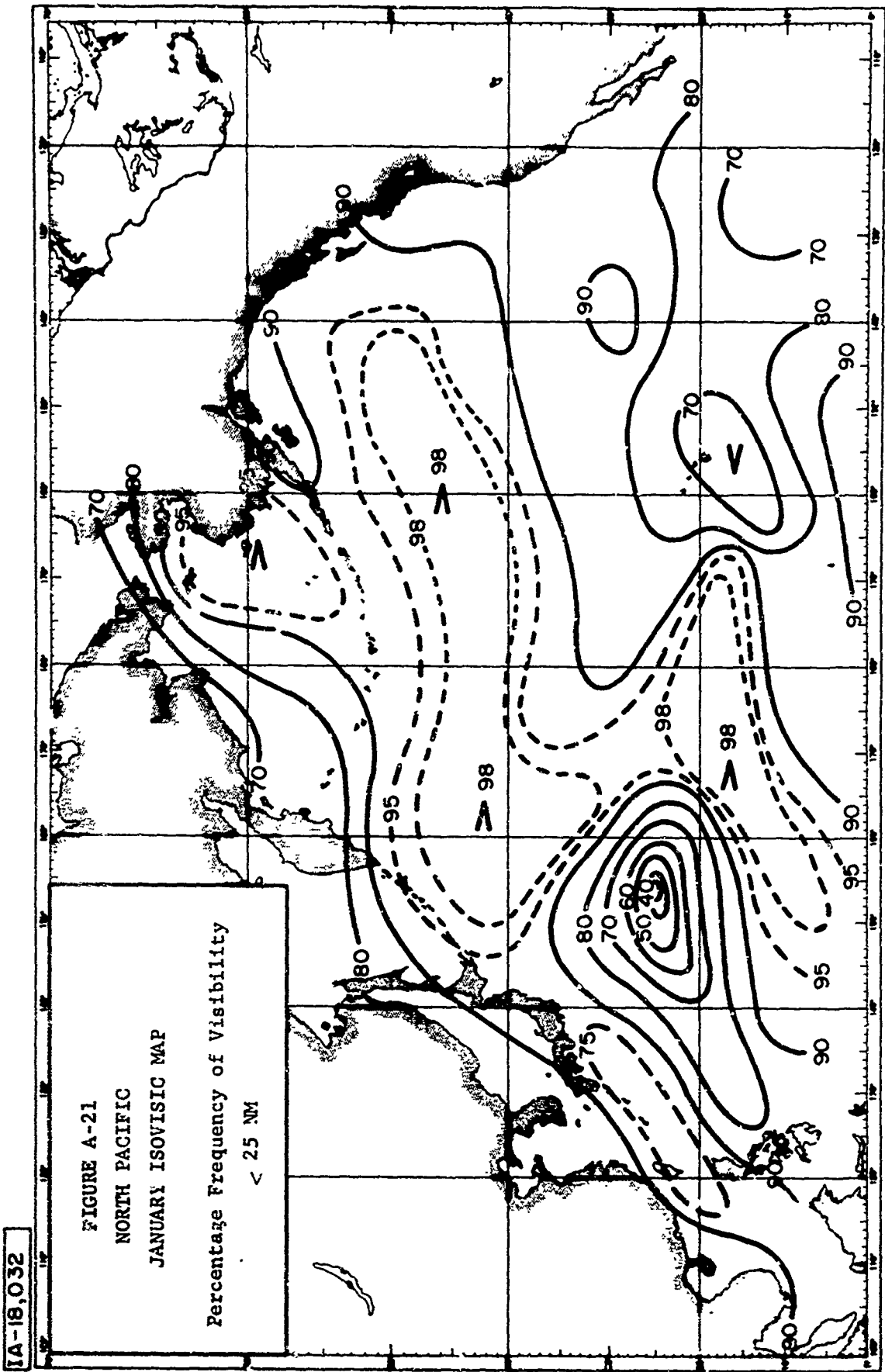




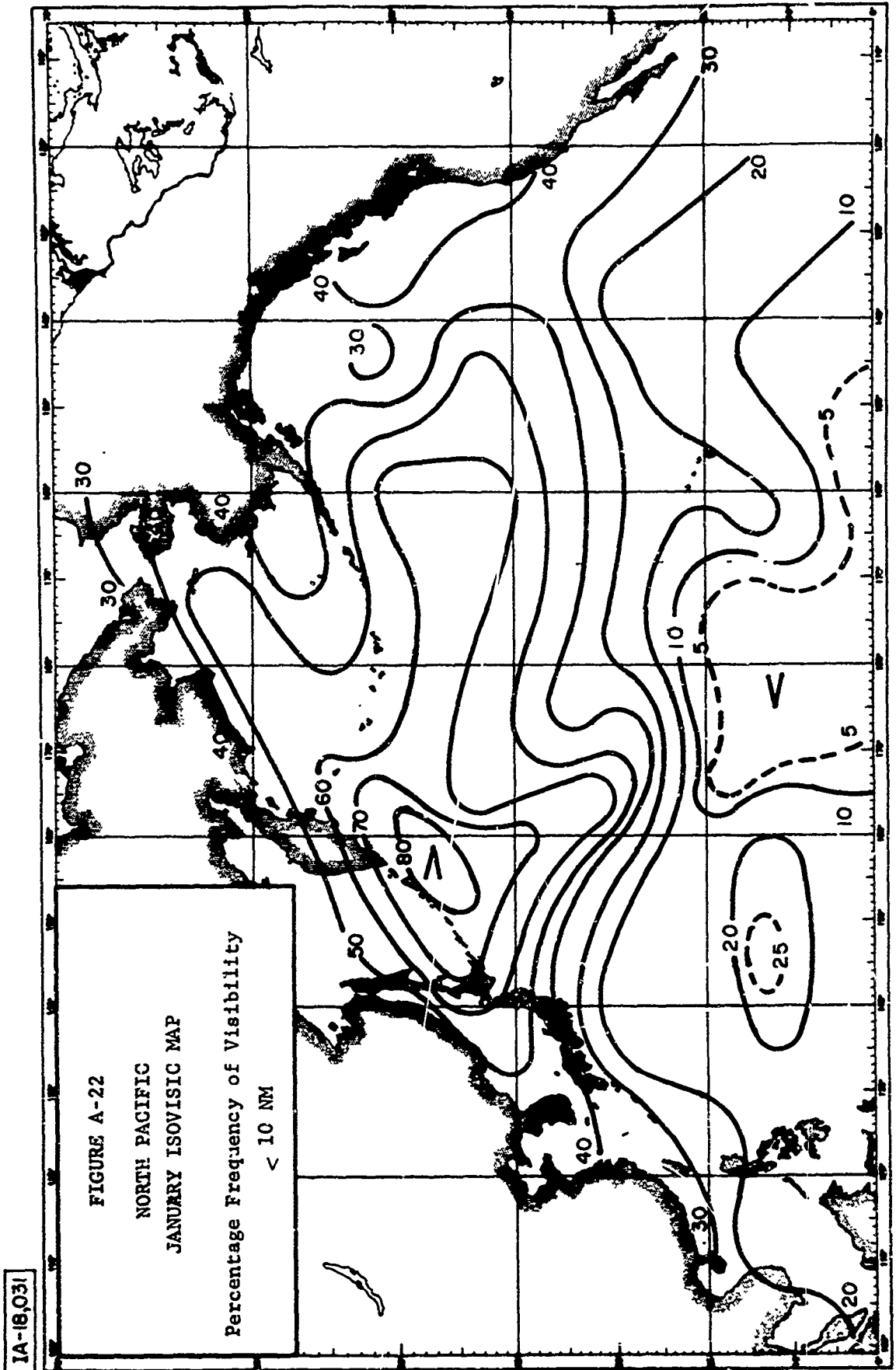


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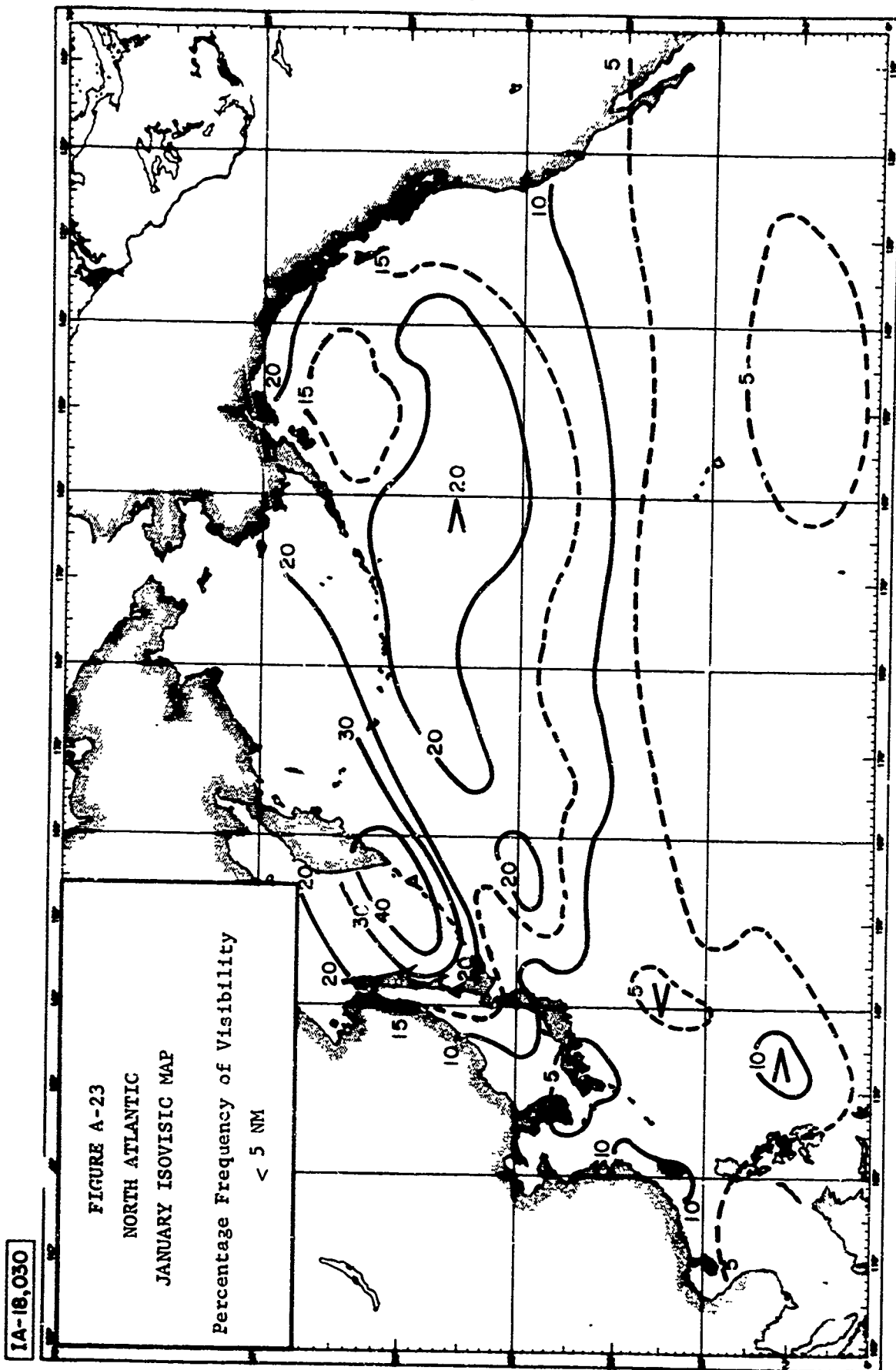


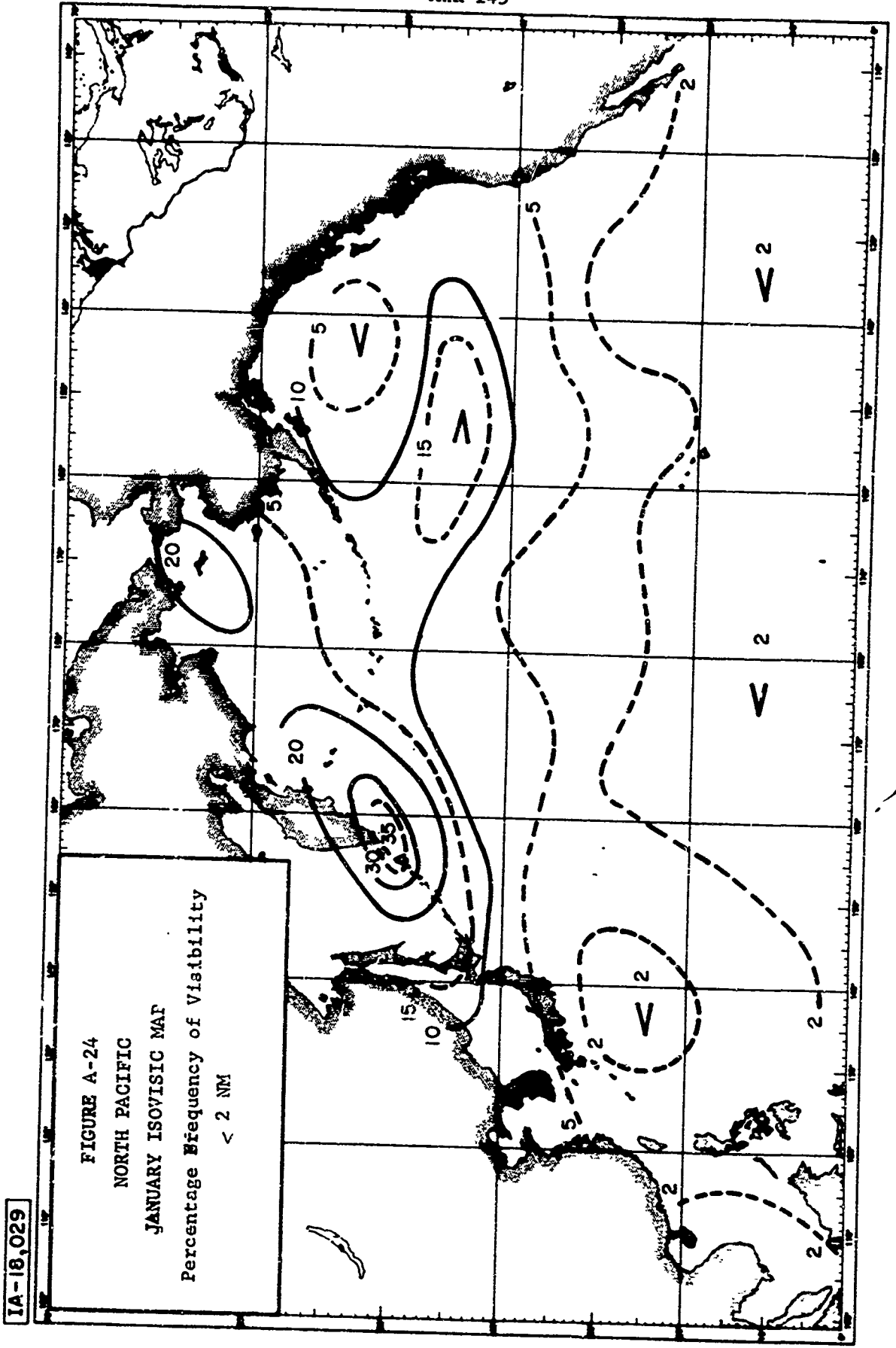


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FIGURE A-24
NORTH PACIFIC
JANUARY ISOVISIC MAP
Percentage Frequency of Visibility
< 2 NM

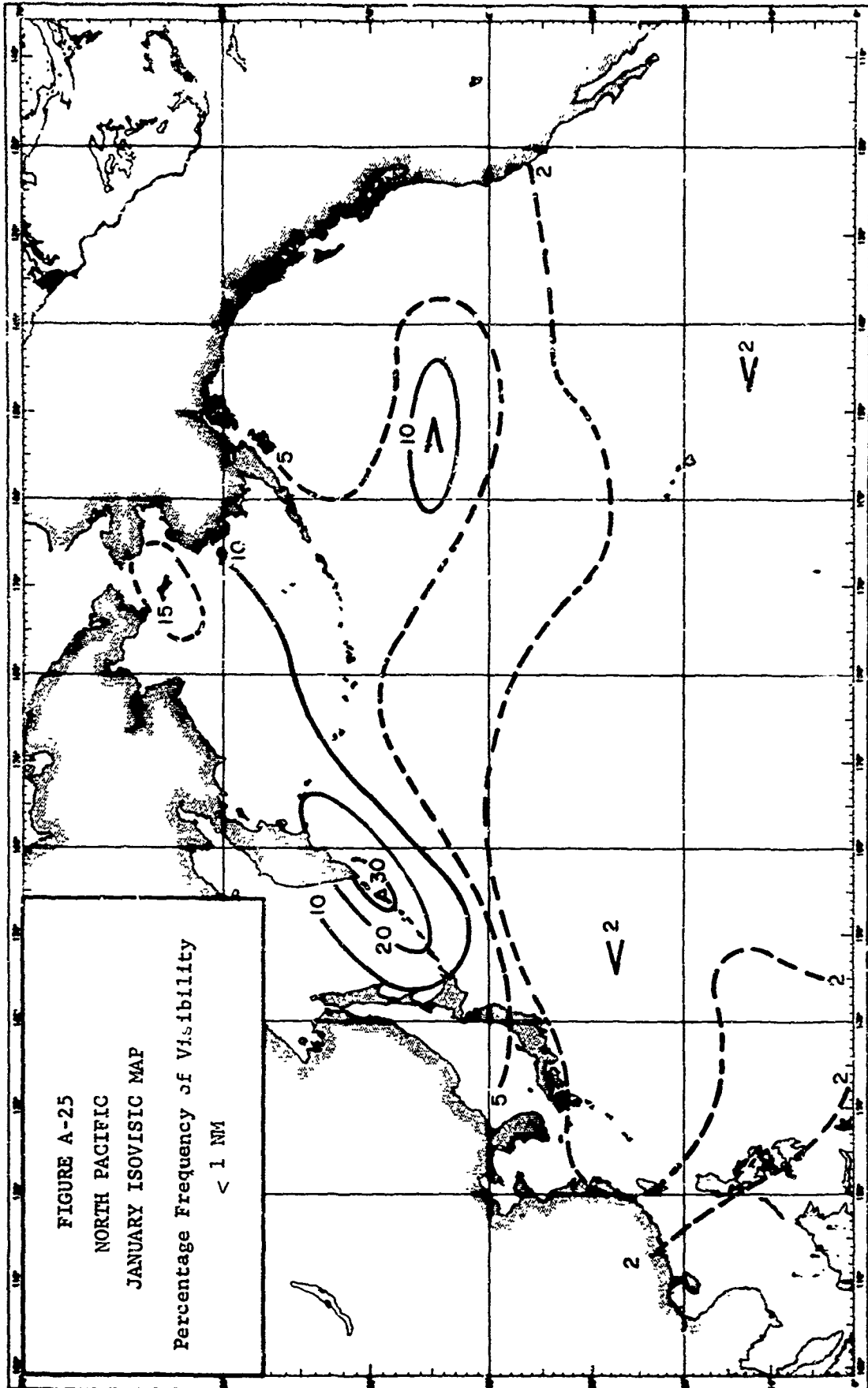


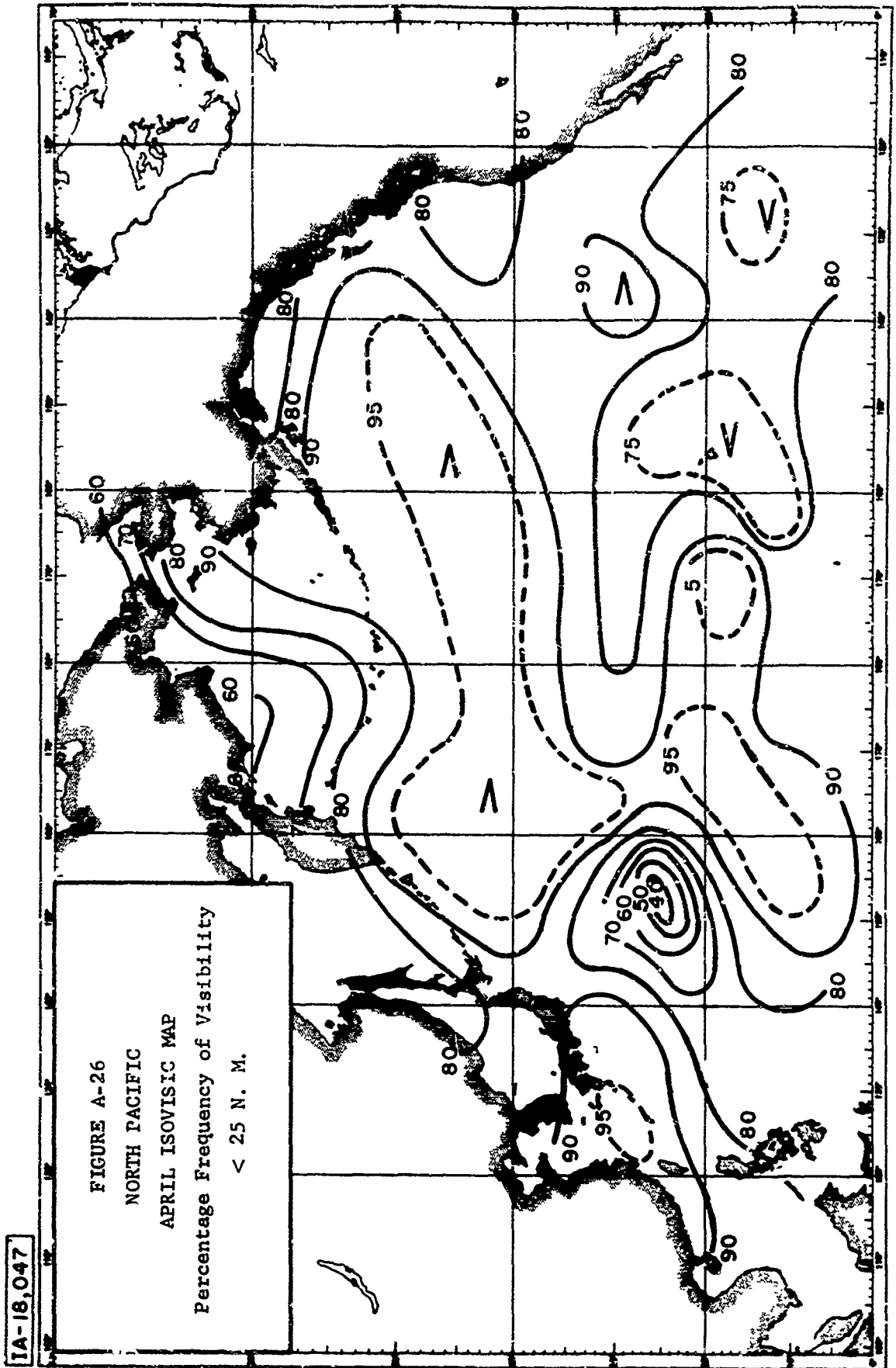
FIGURE A-25

NORTH PACIFIC

JANUARY ISOVISIC MAP

Percentage Frequency of Visibility

< 1 NM



IA-18,046

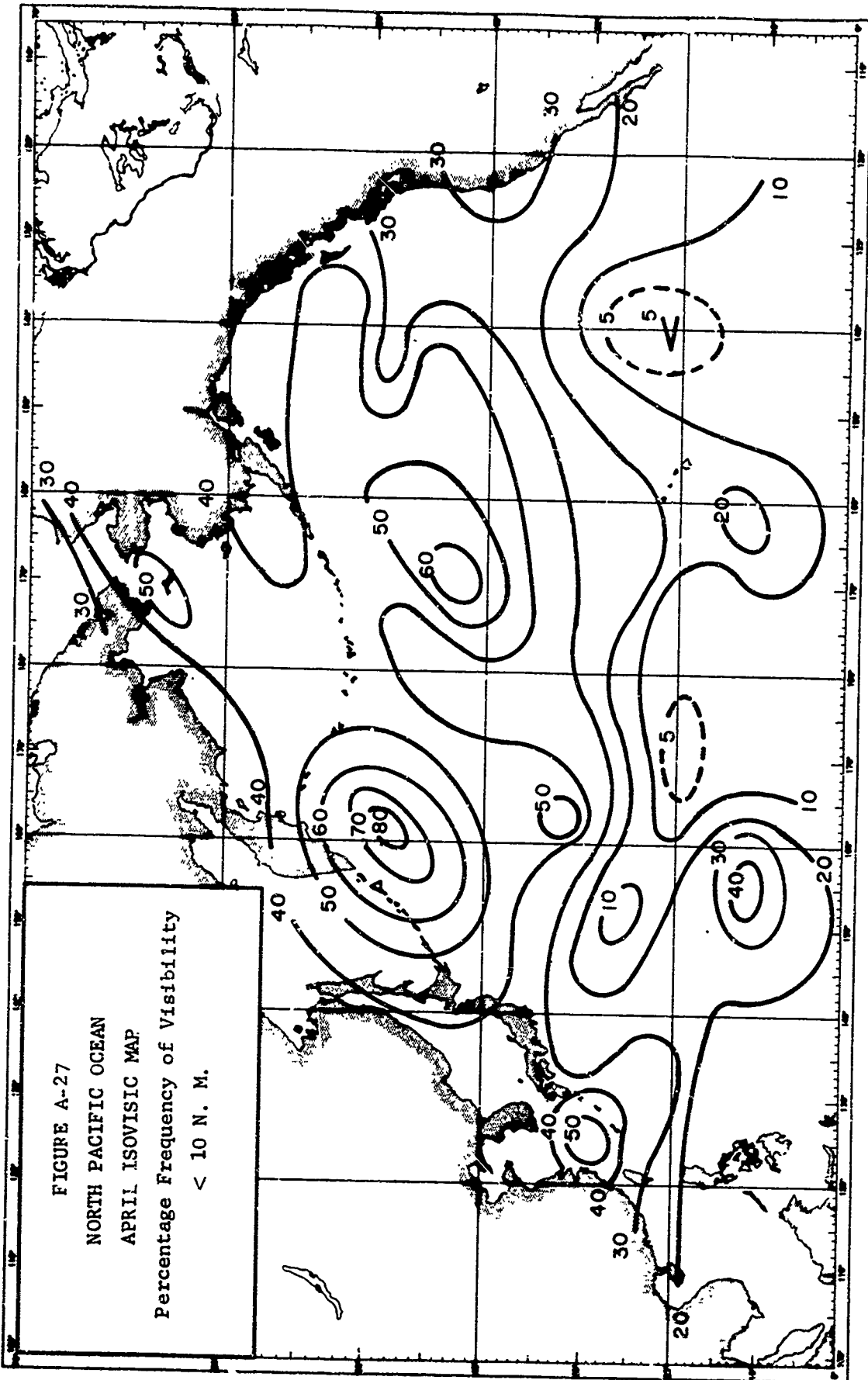
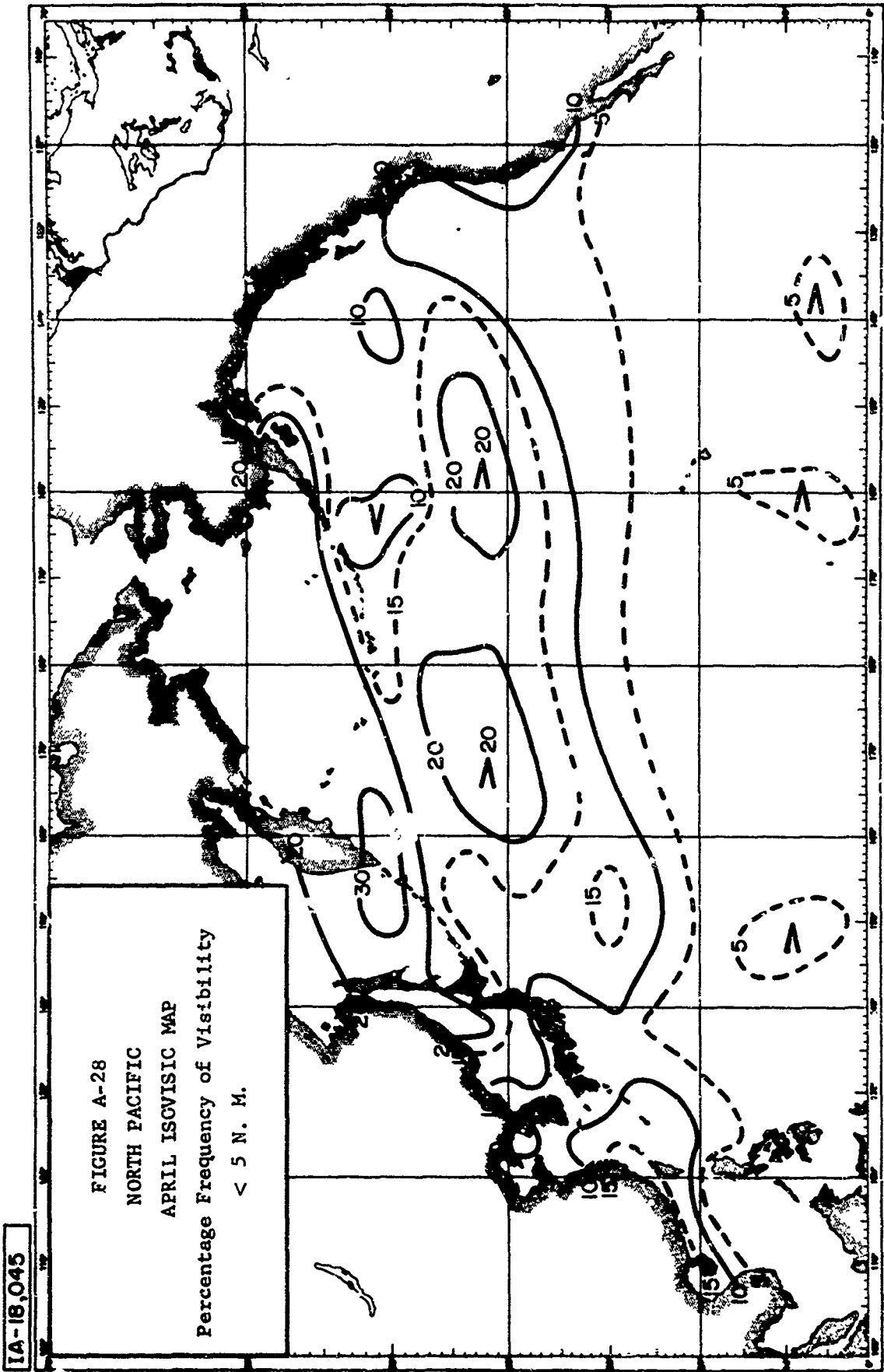
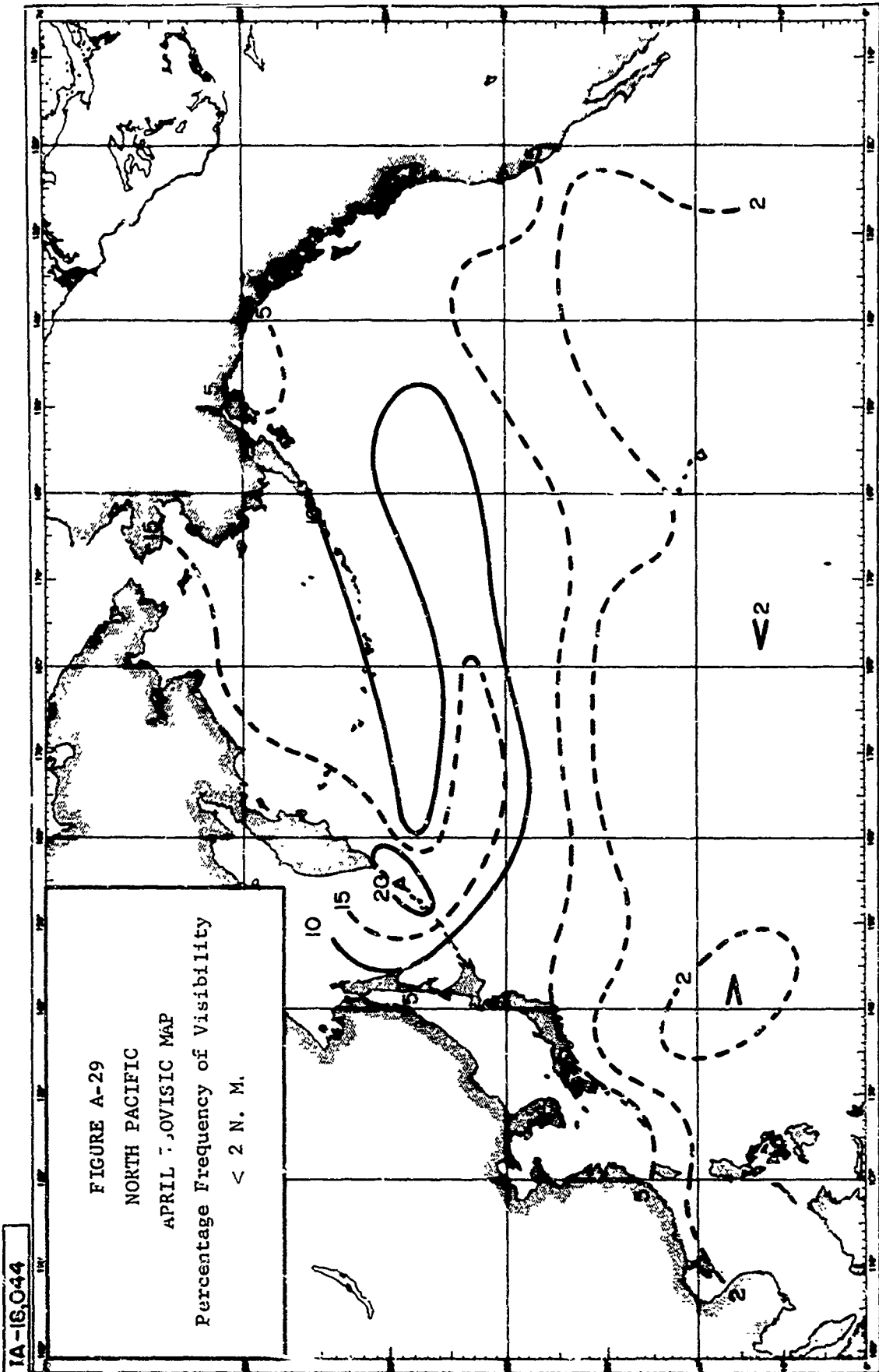
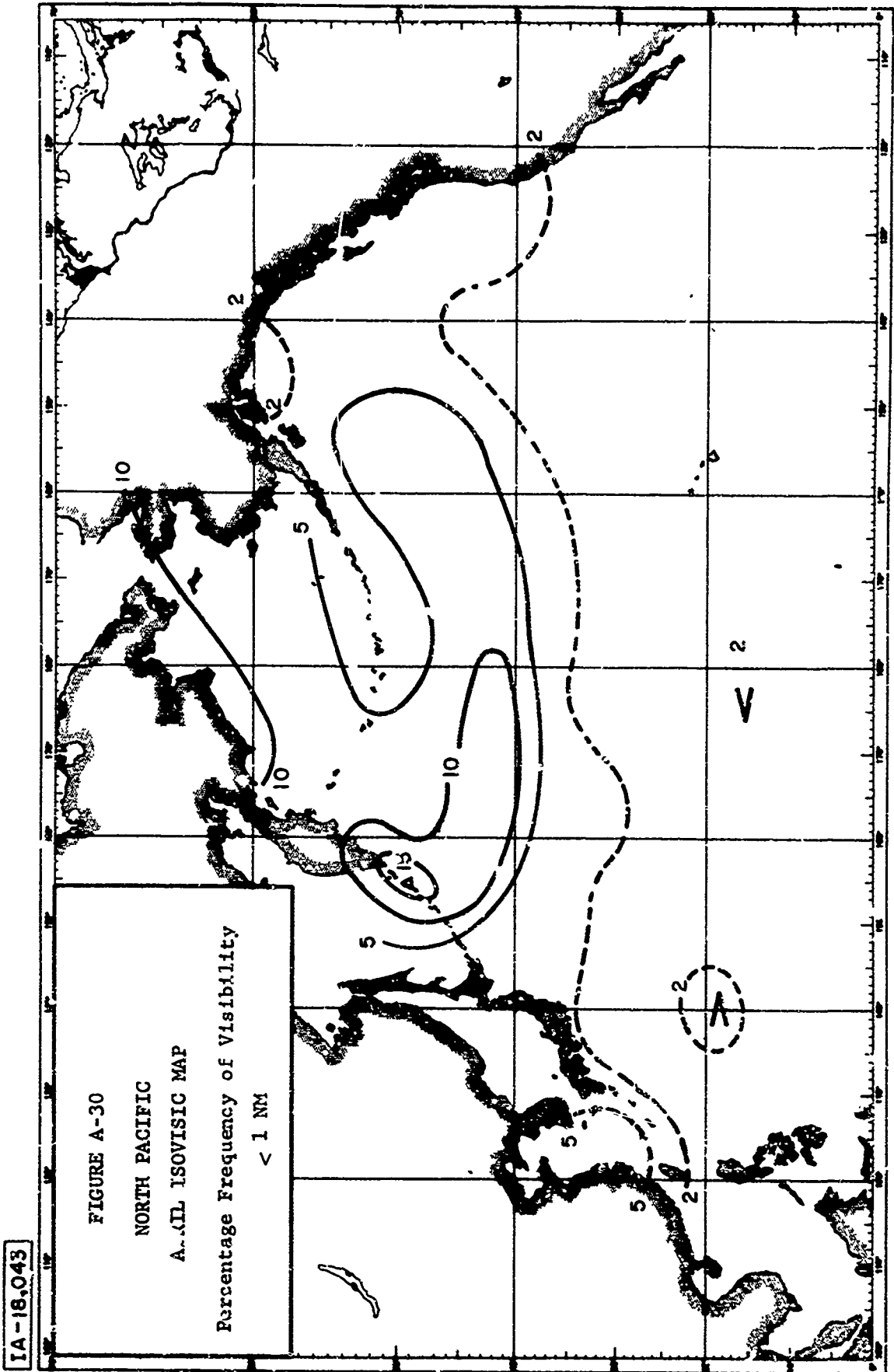


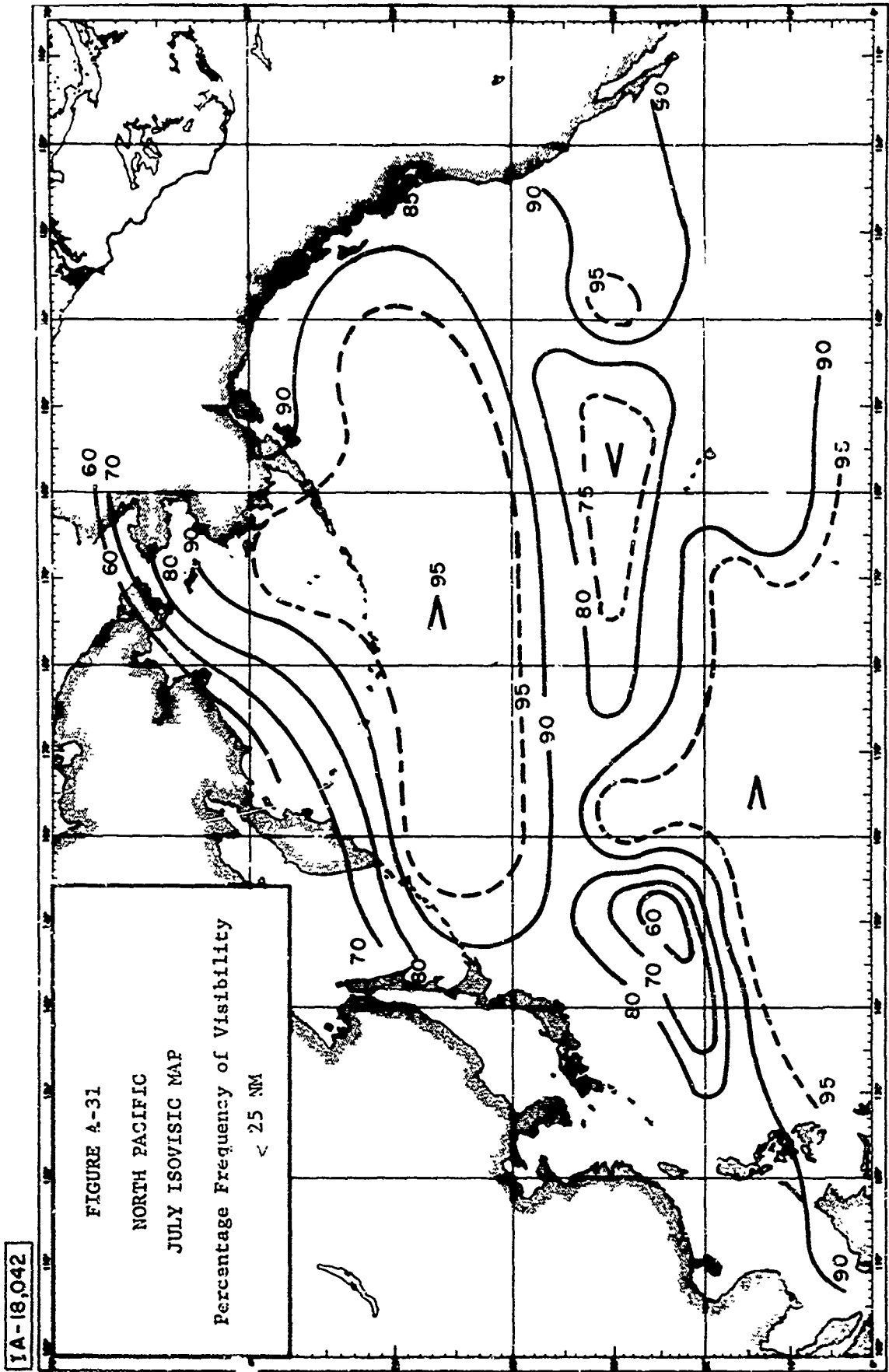
FIGURE A-27
NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
APRIL ISOVISIC MAP
Percentage Frequency of Visibility
< 10 N. M.

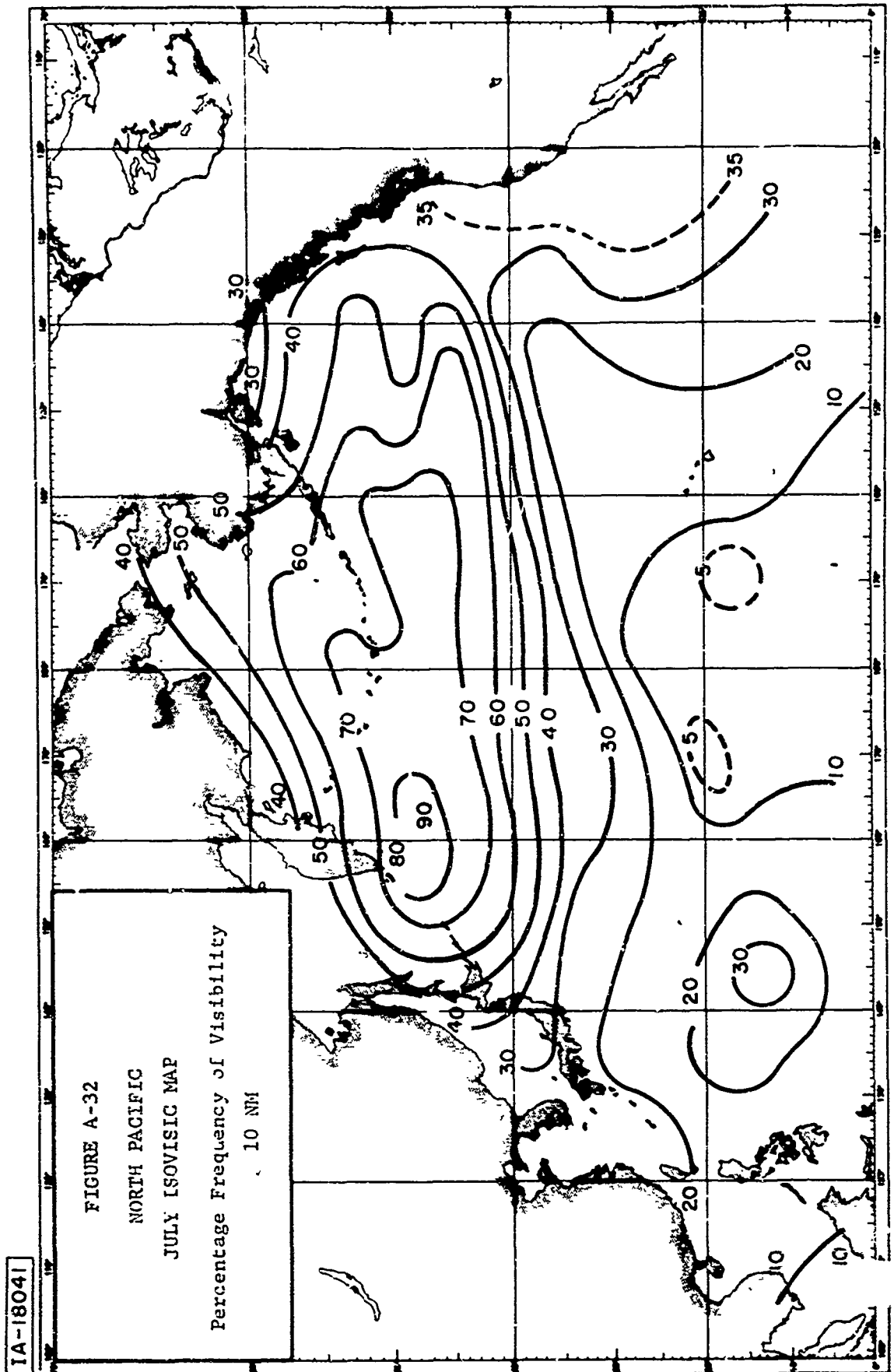


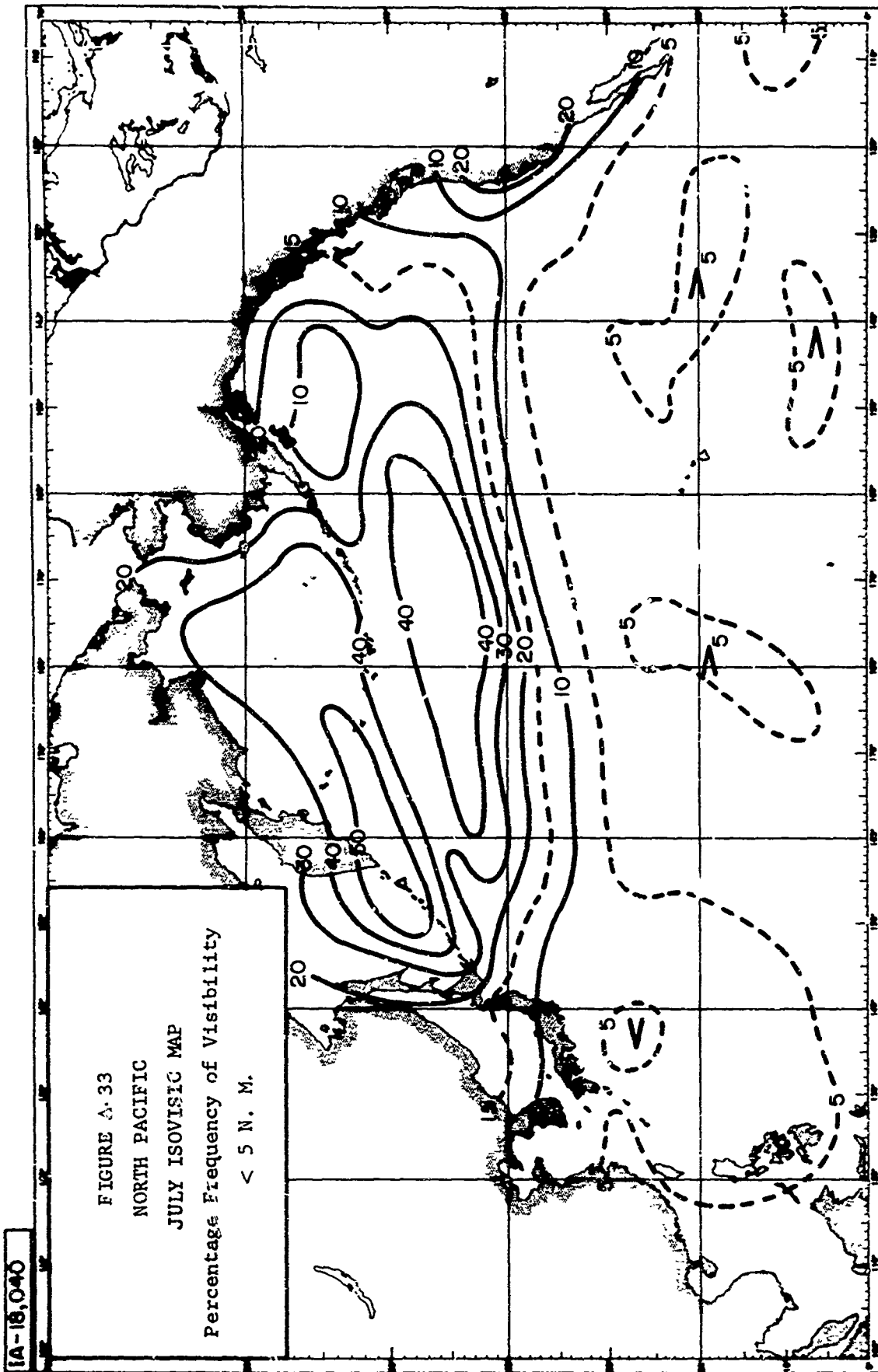
IA-18,045

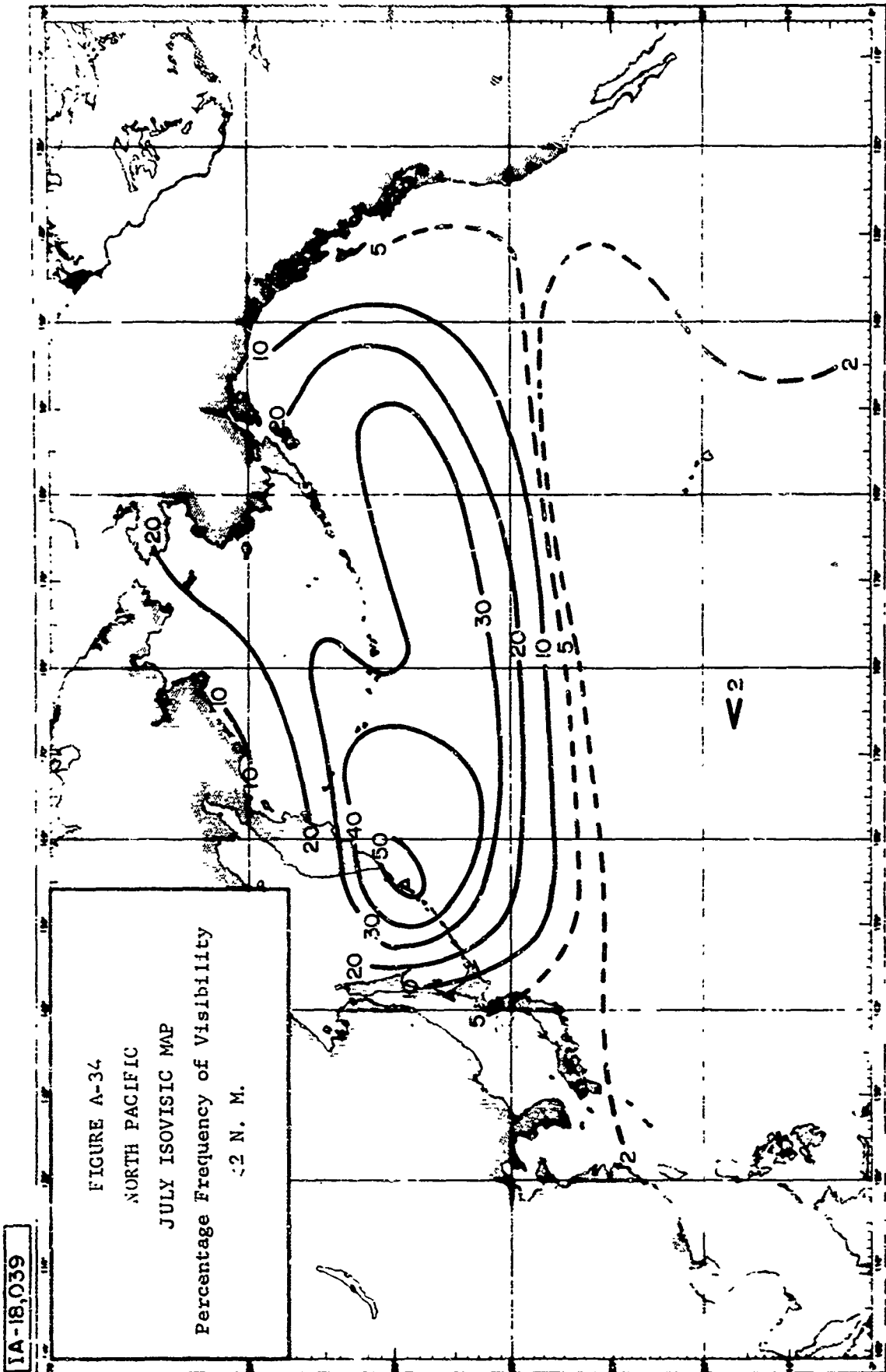


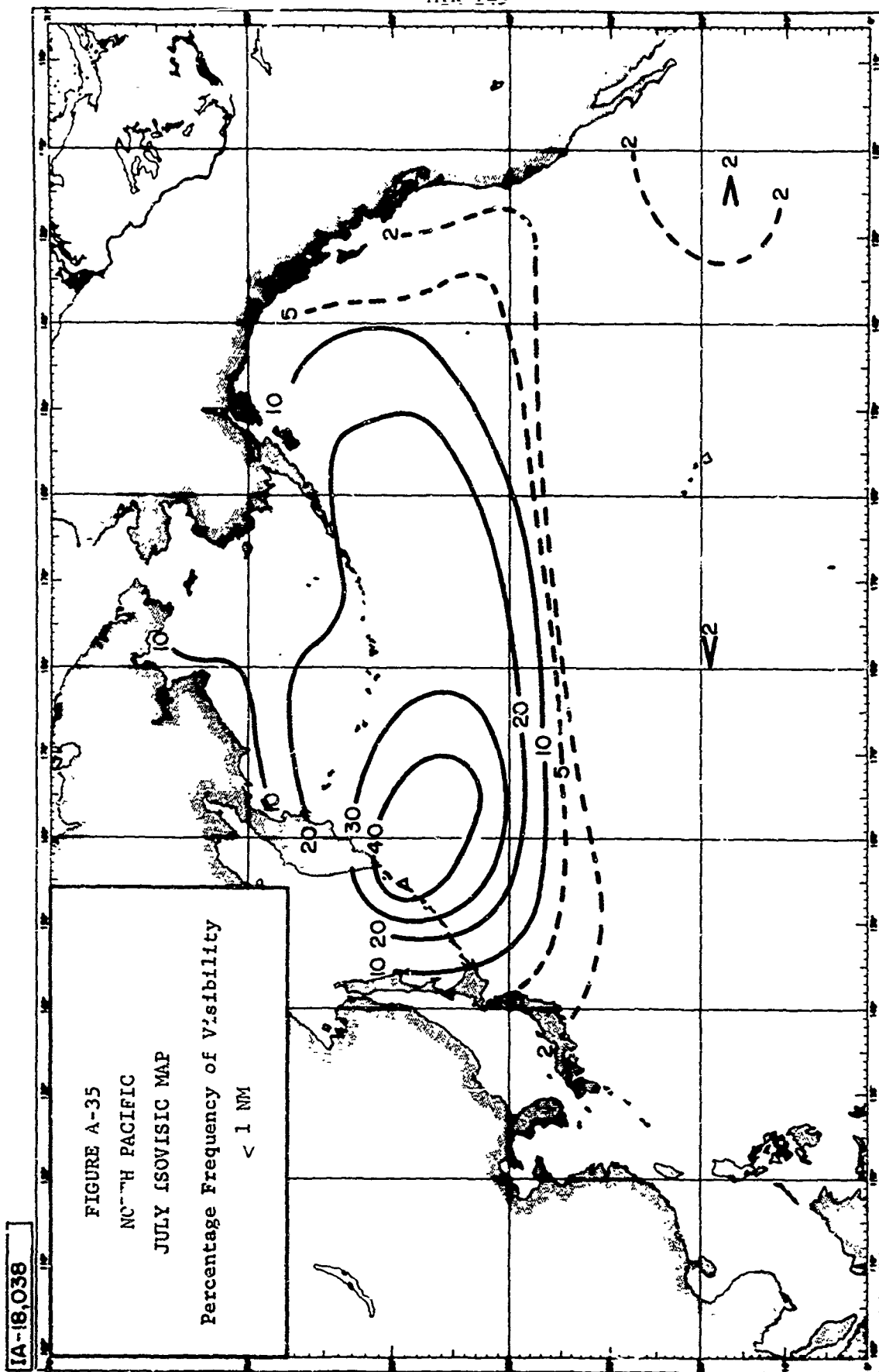




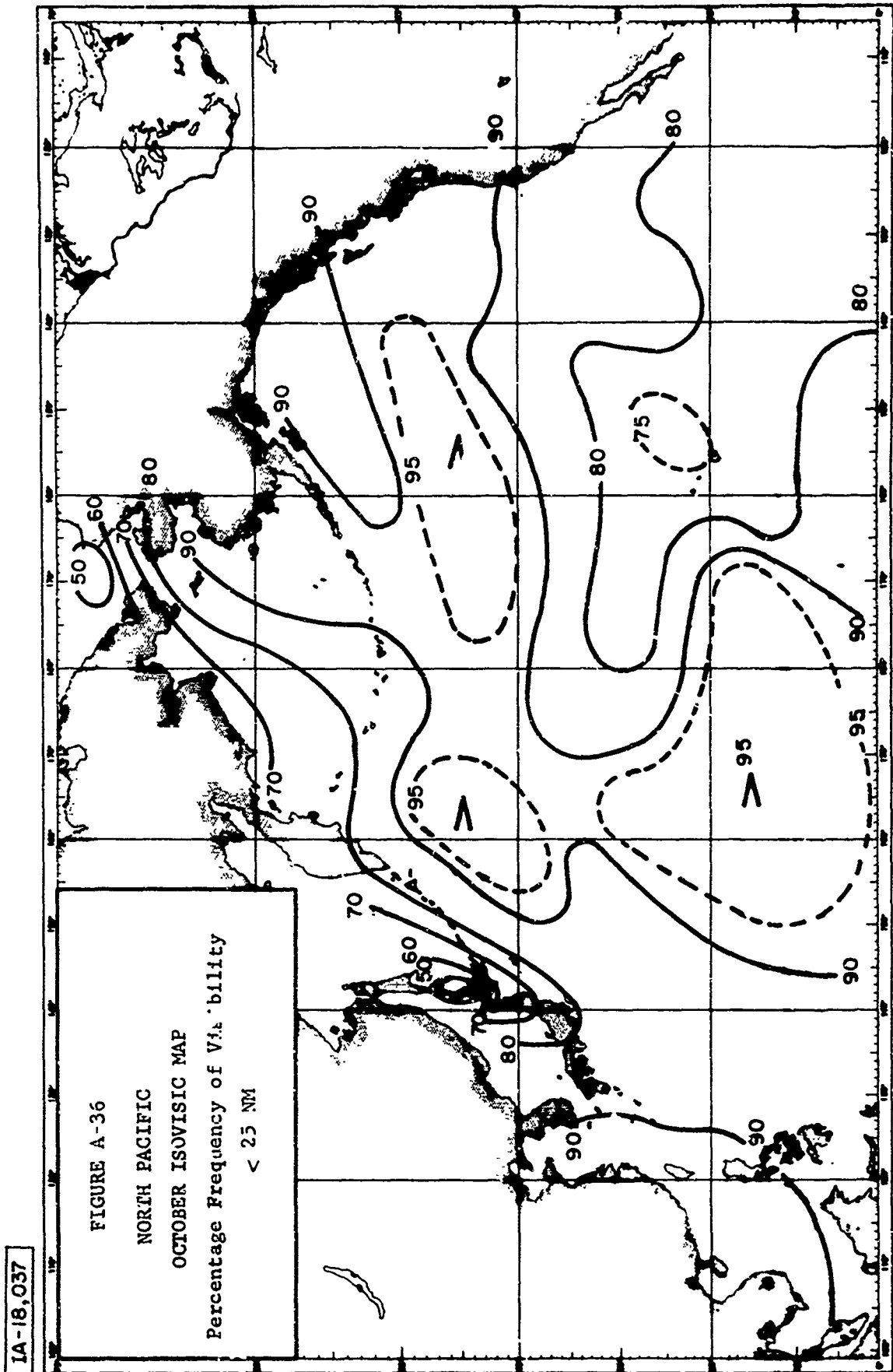


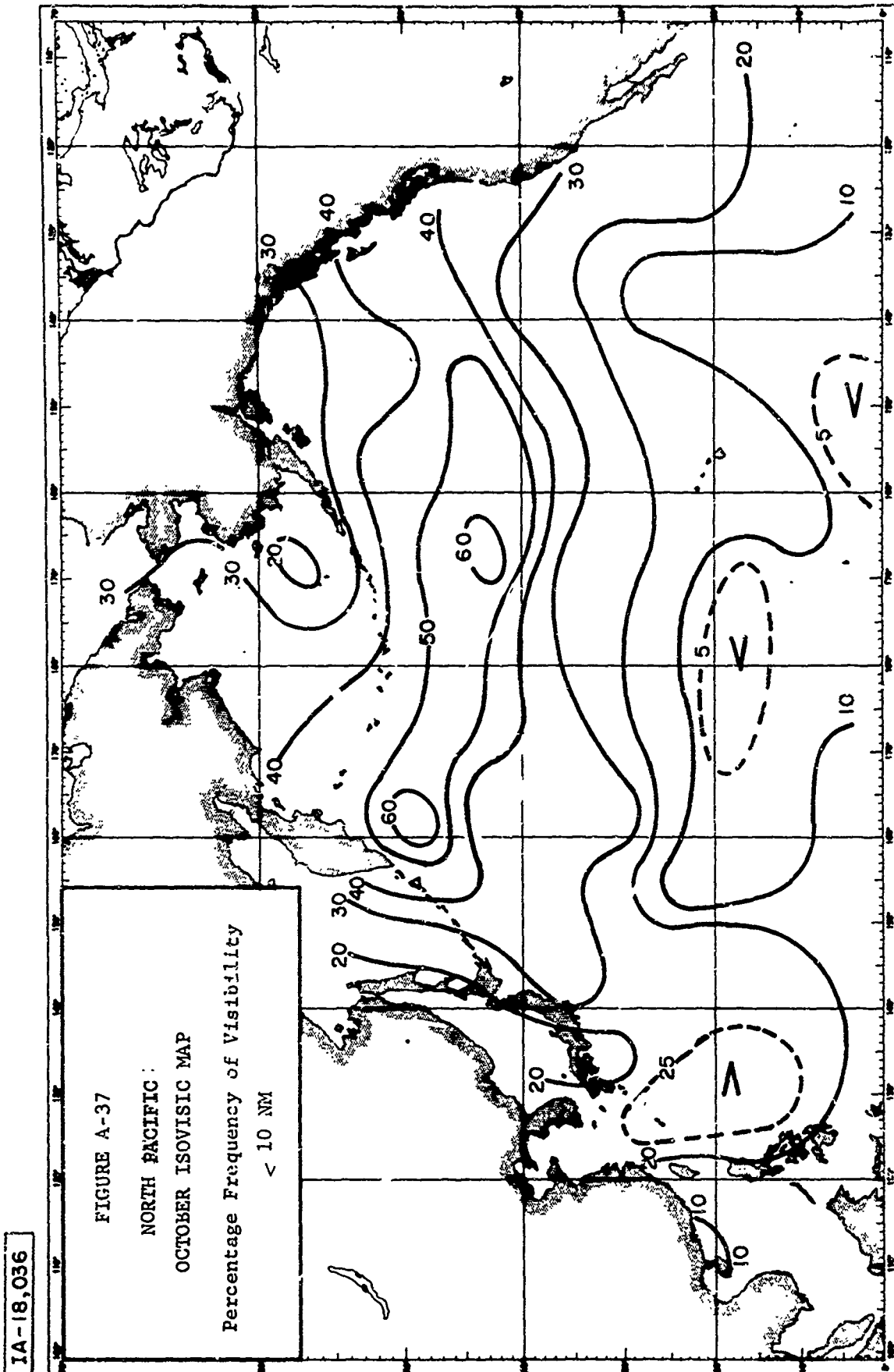


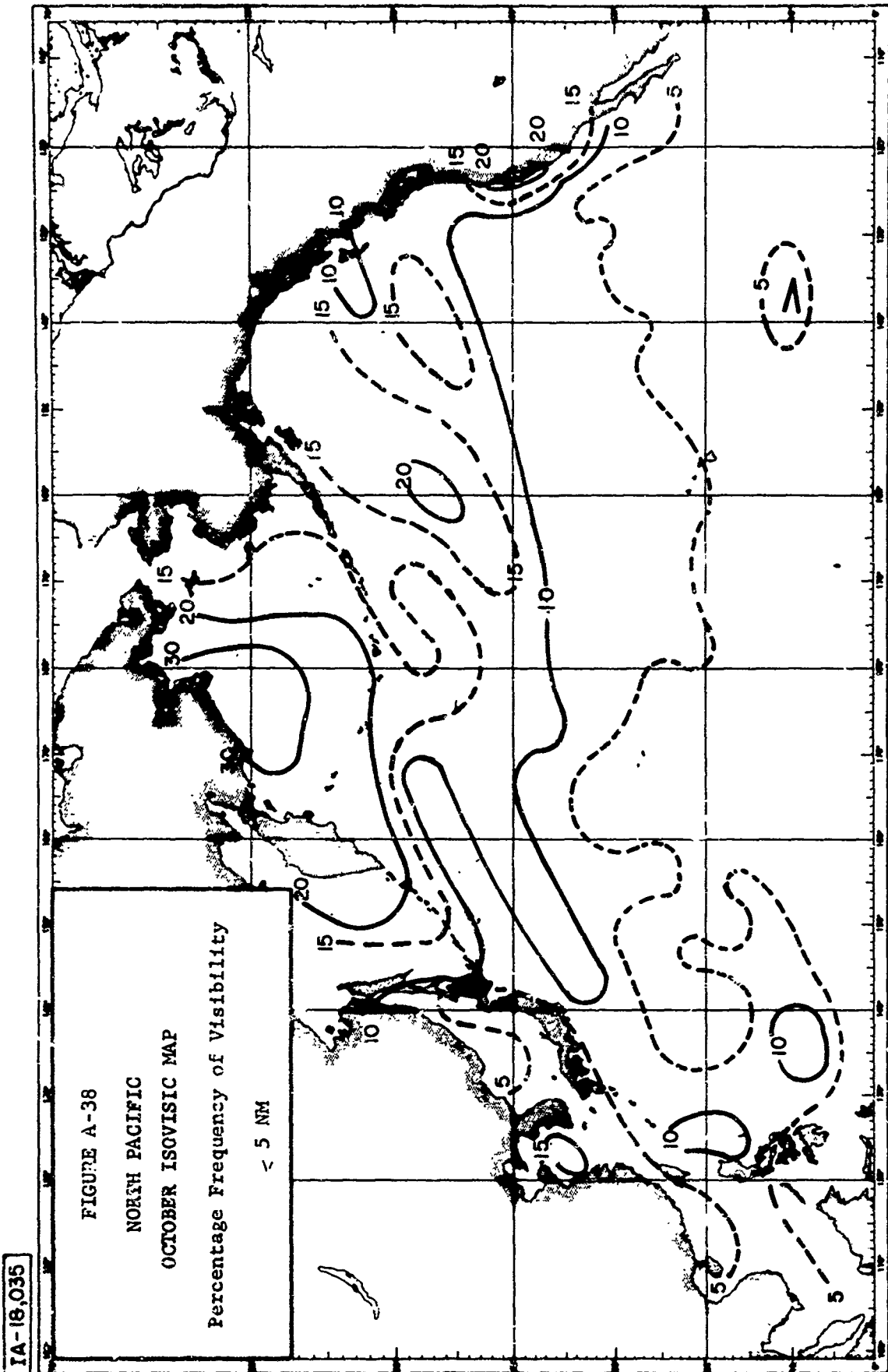


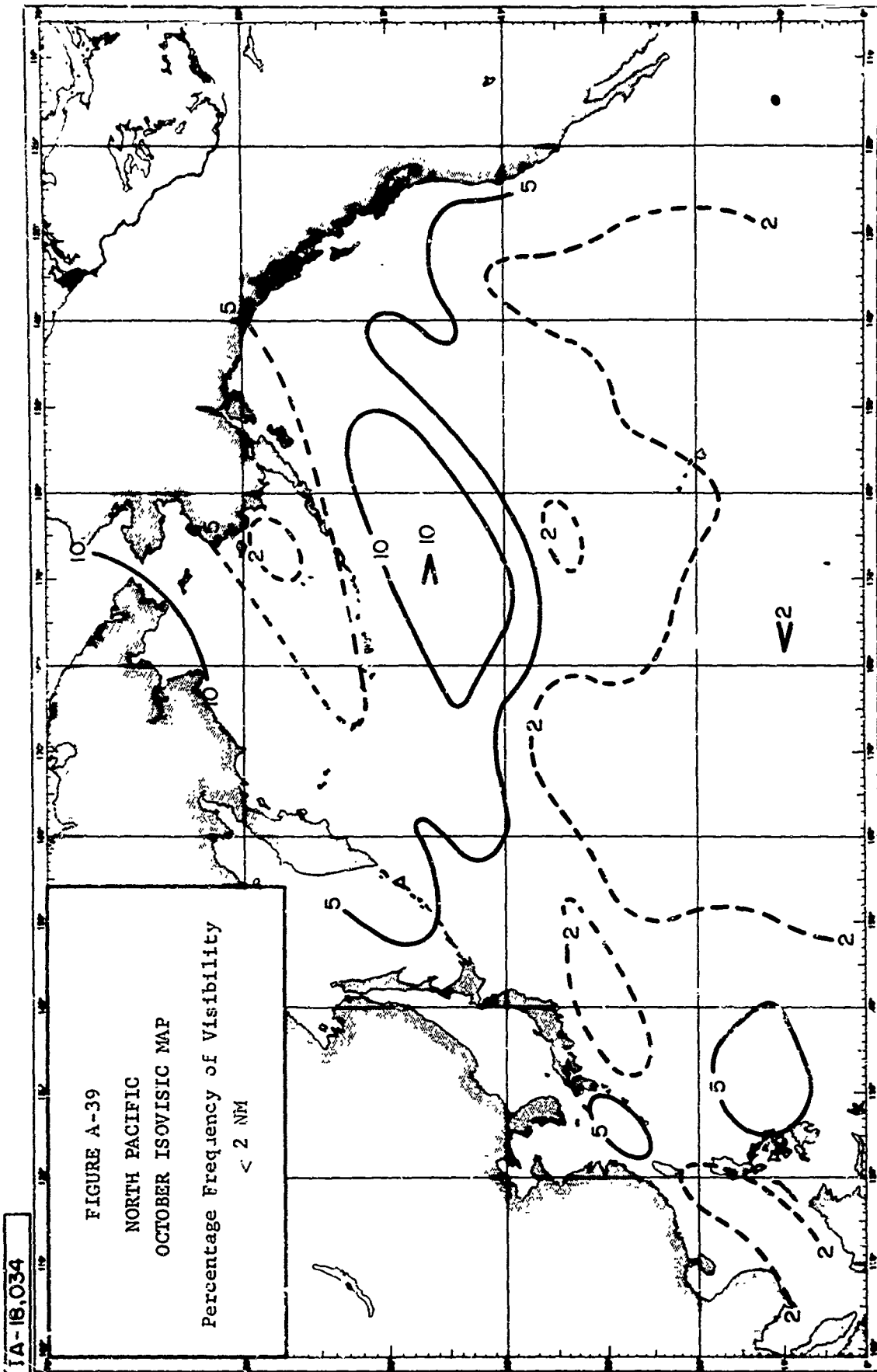


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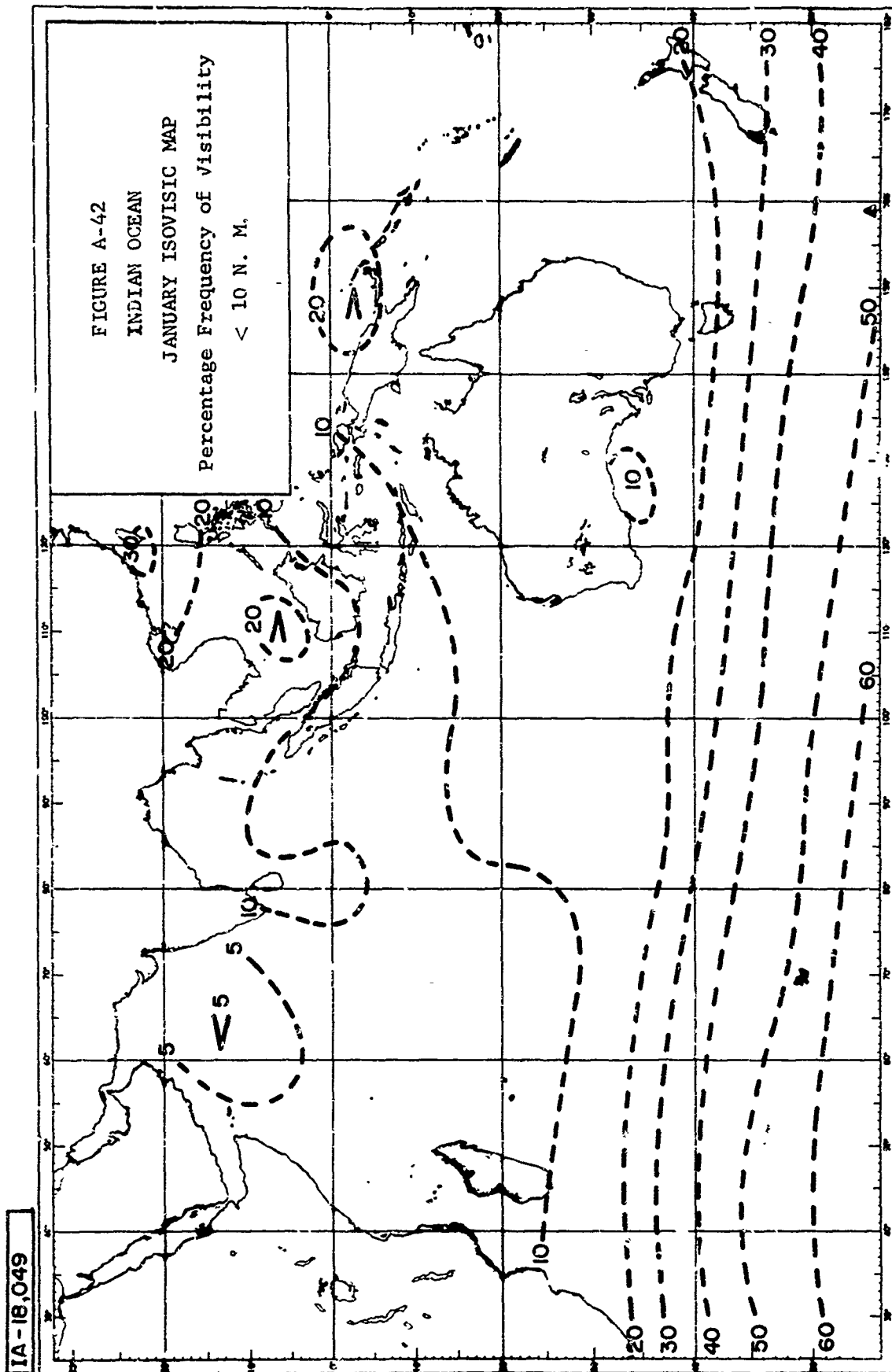


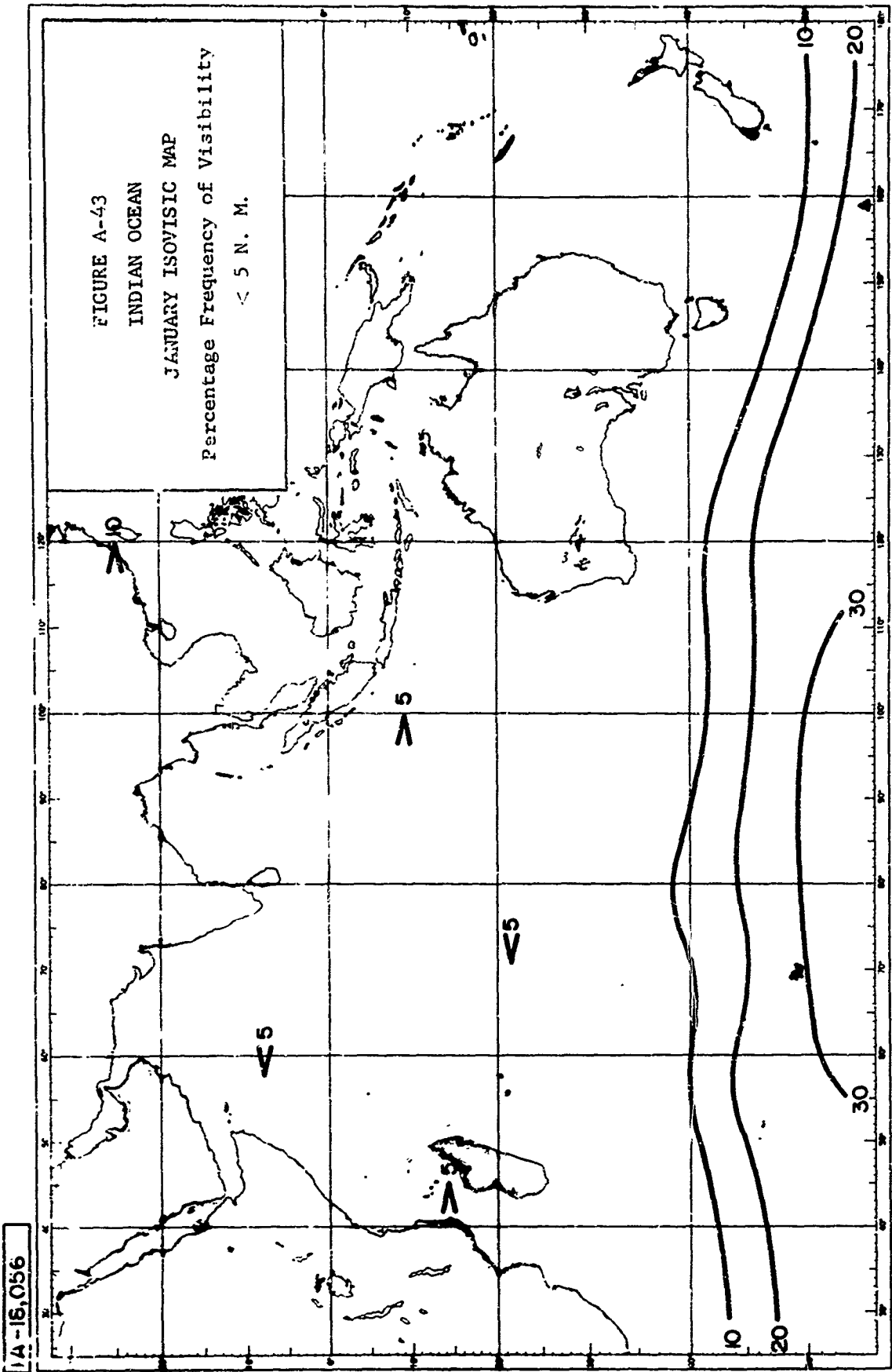




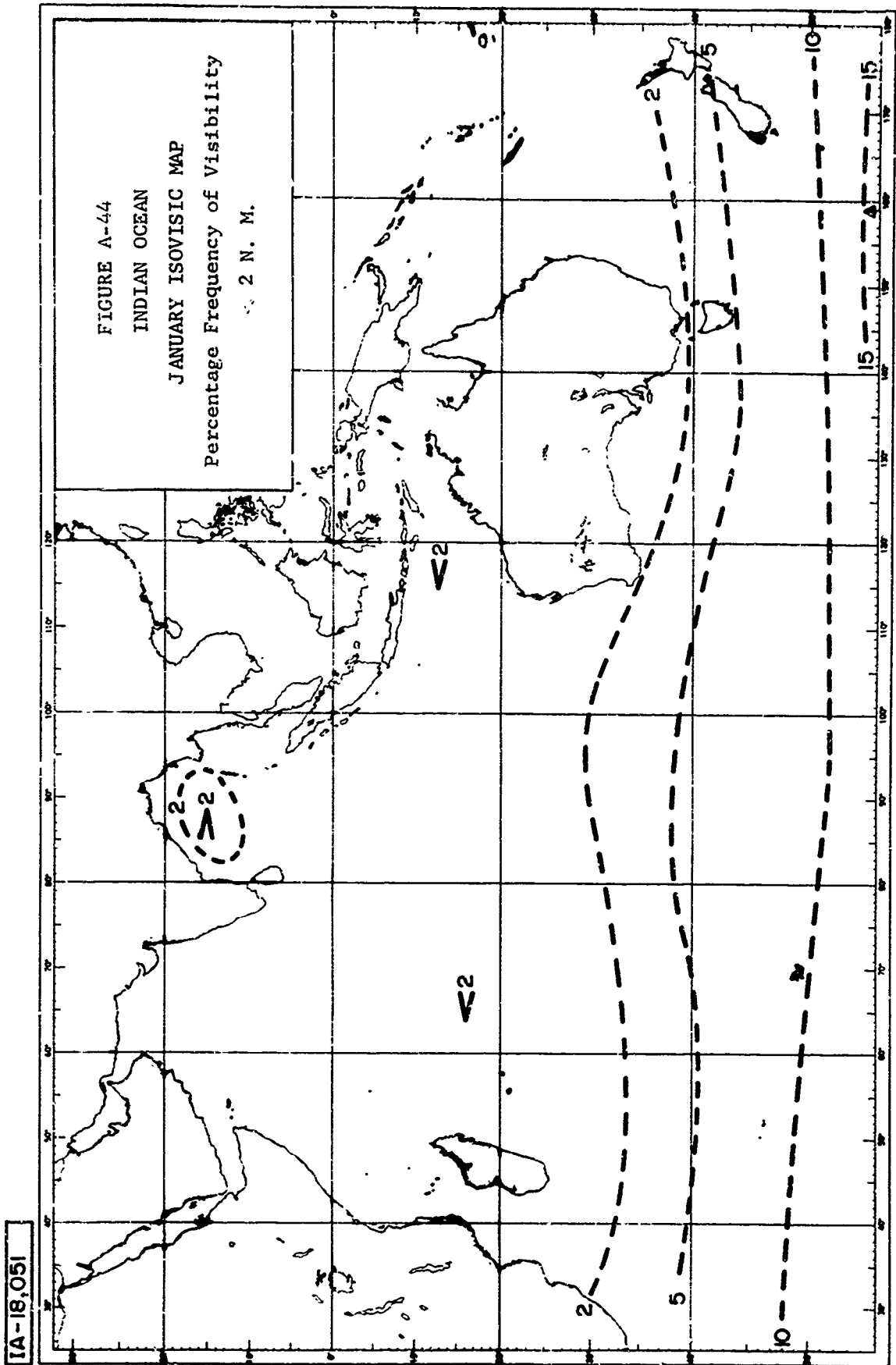


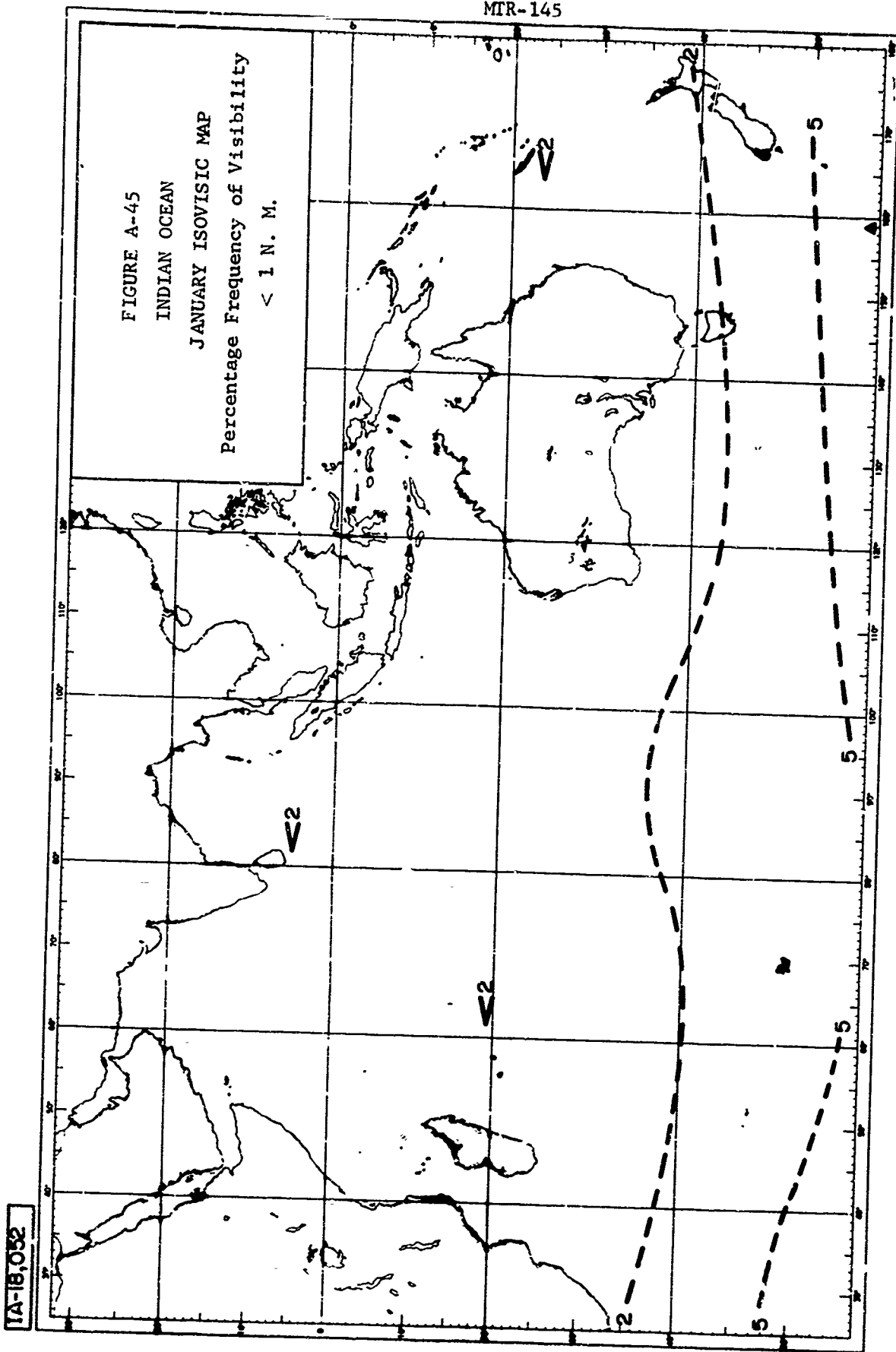
IA-18,034

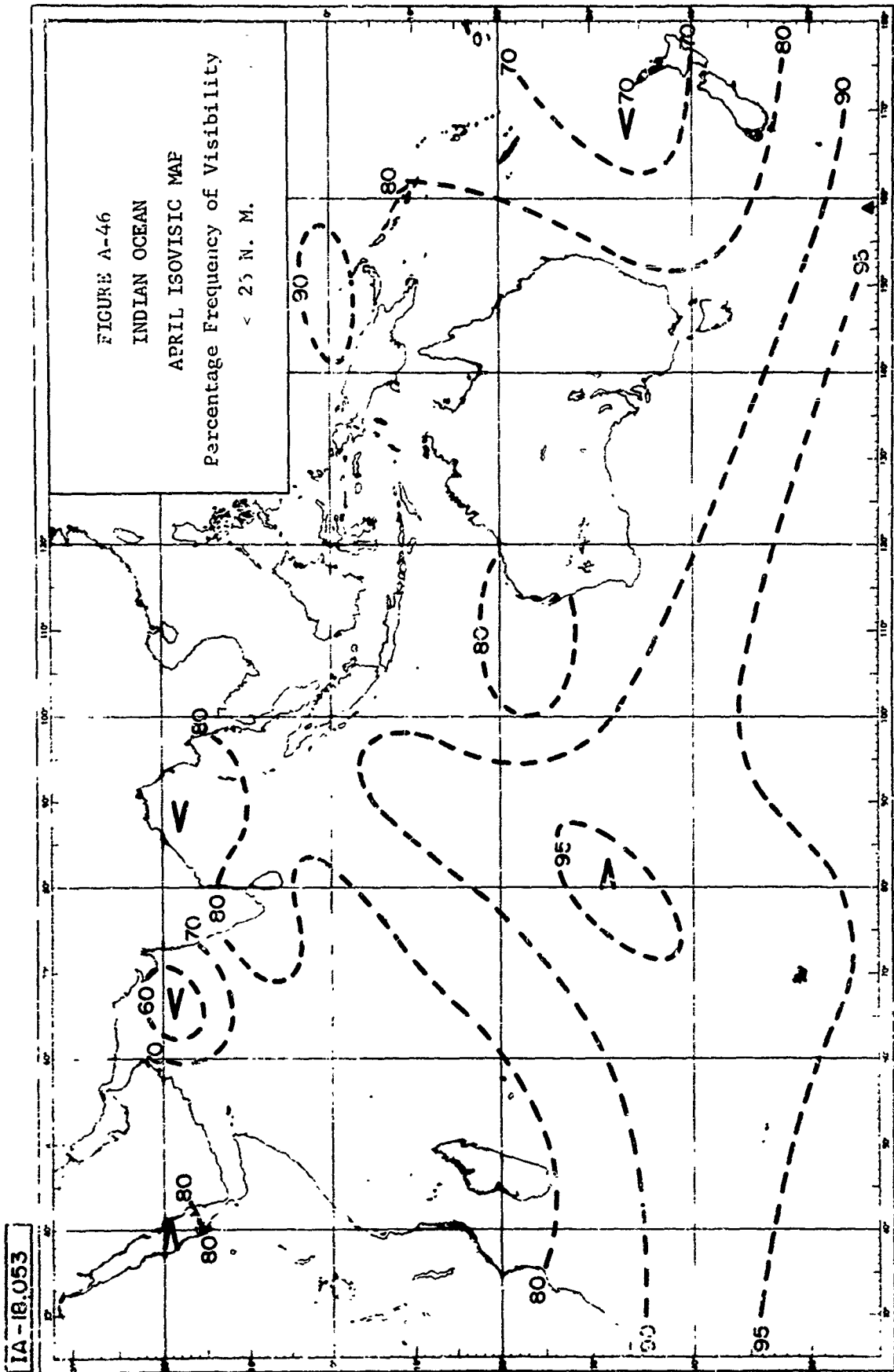


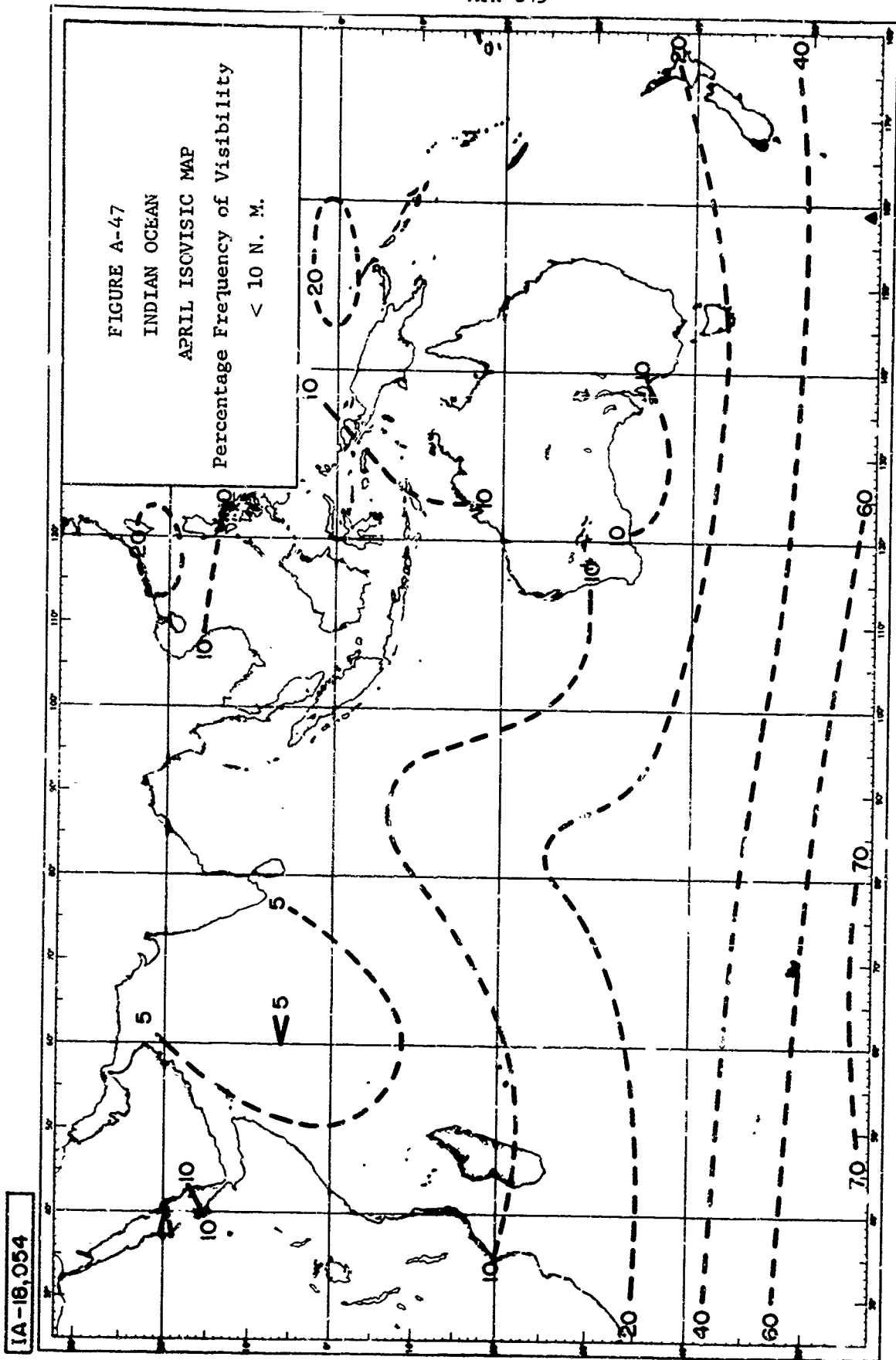


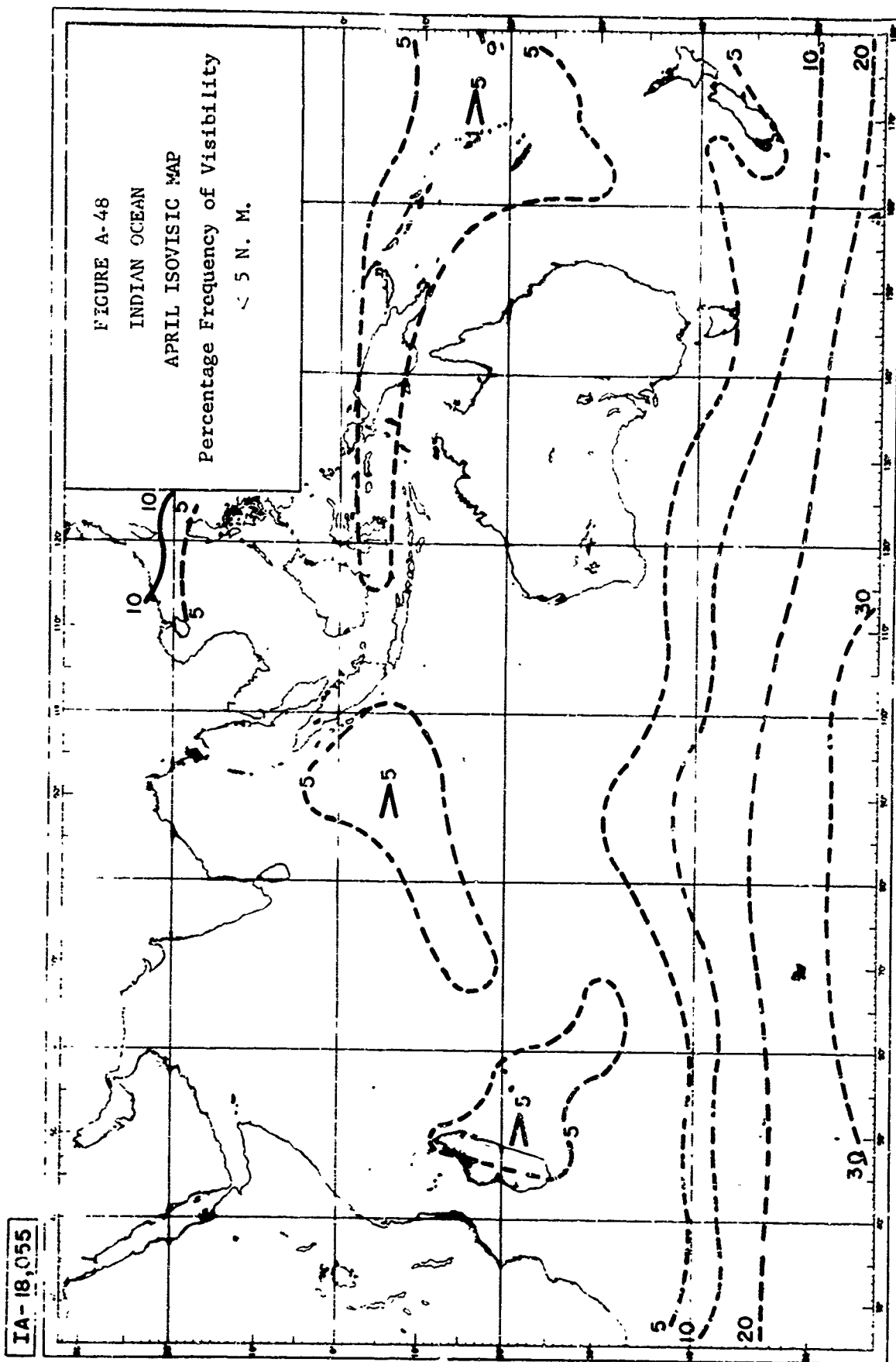
1A-16,056

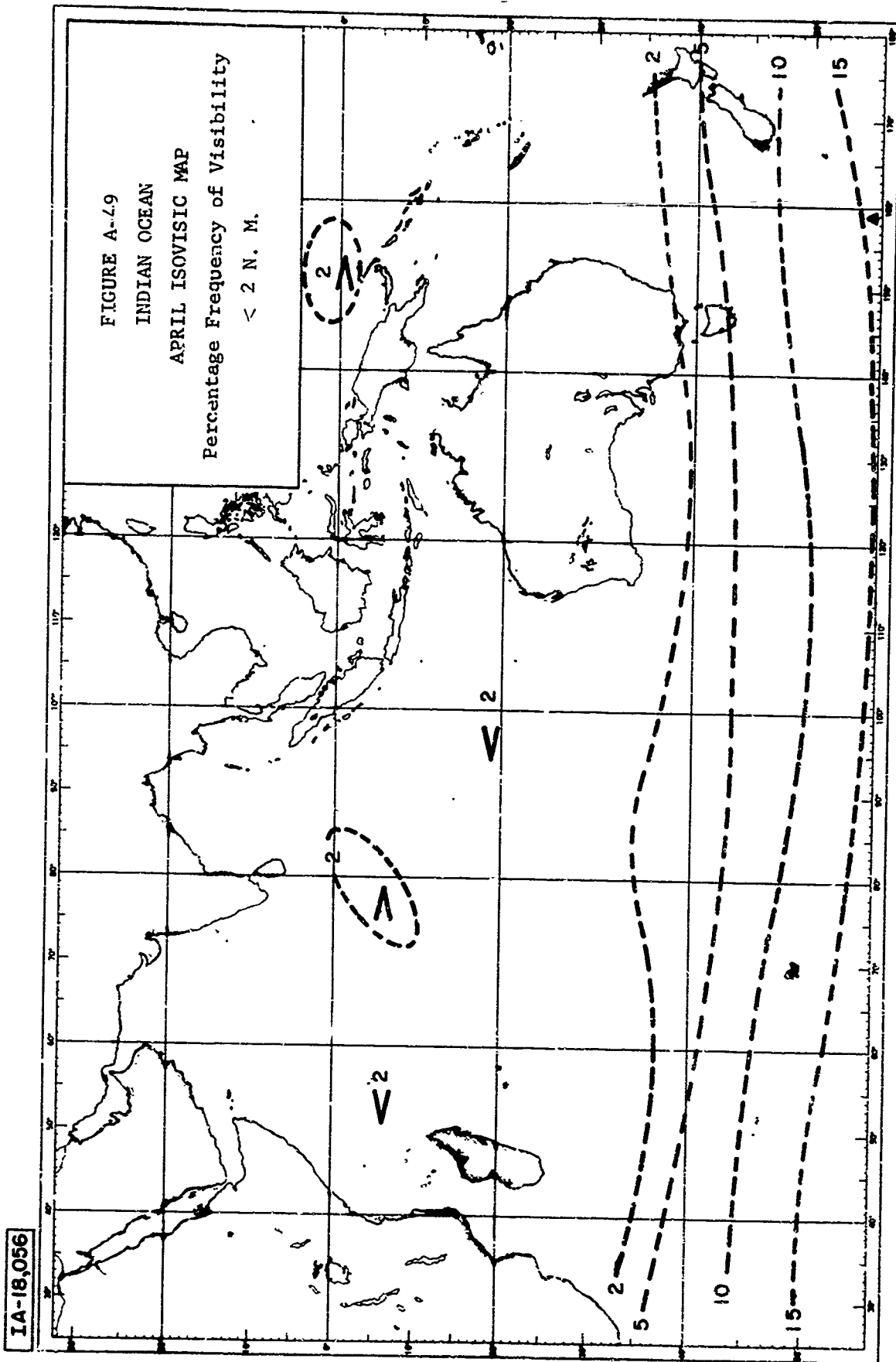












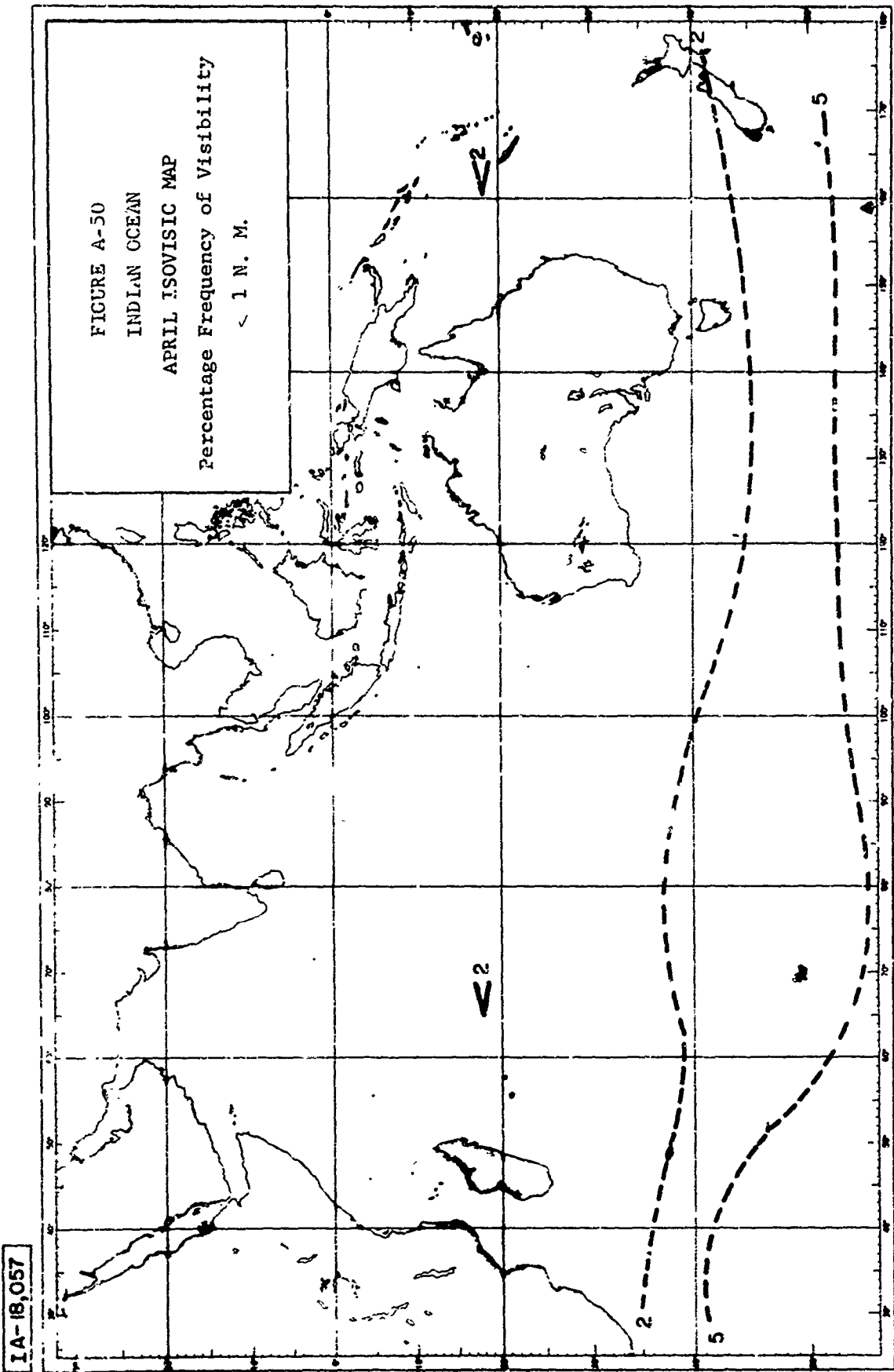
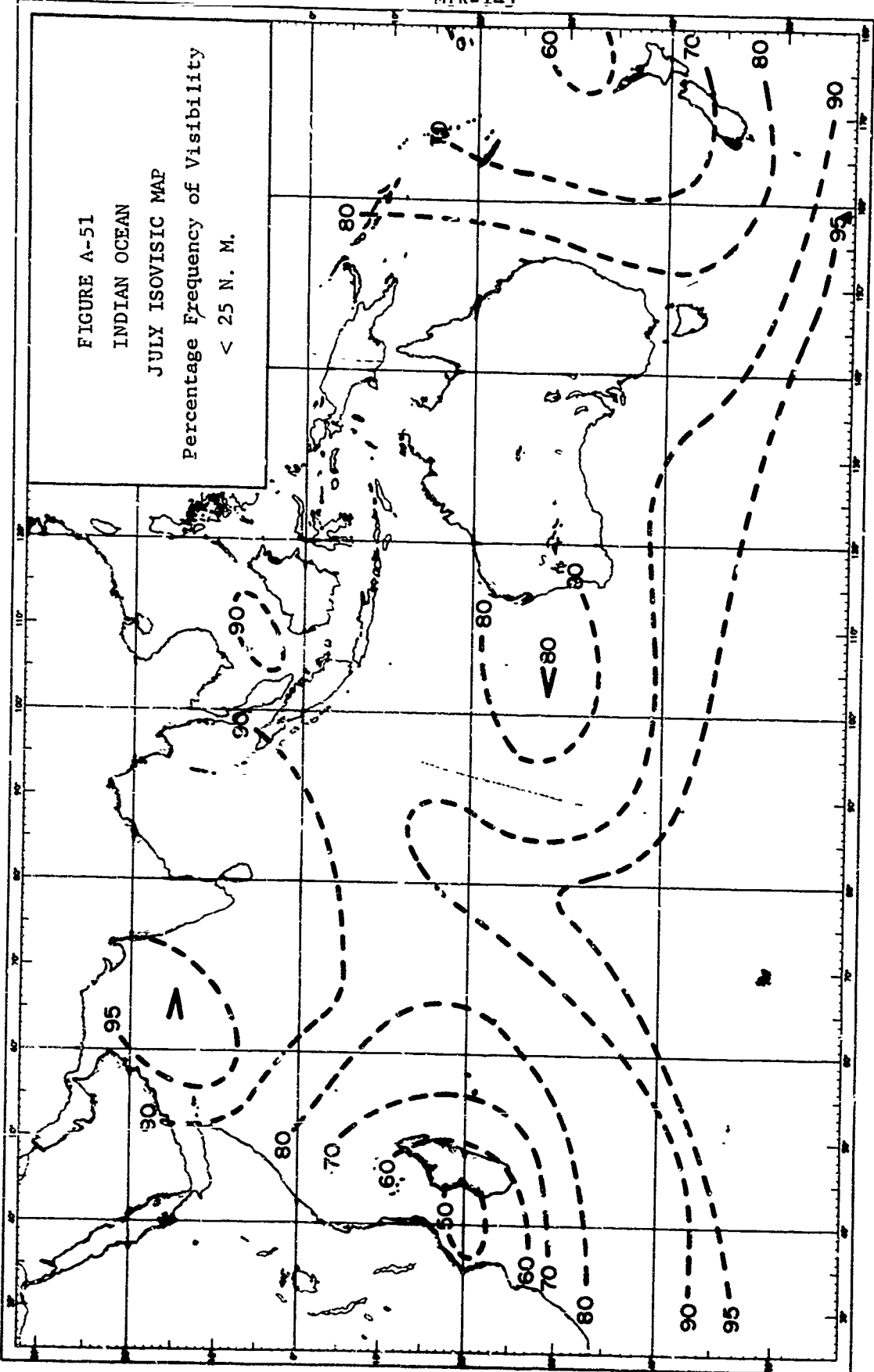
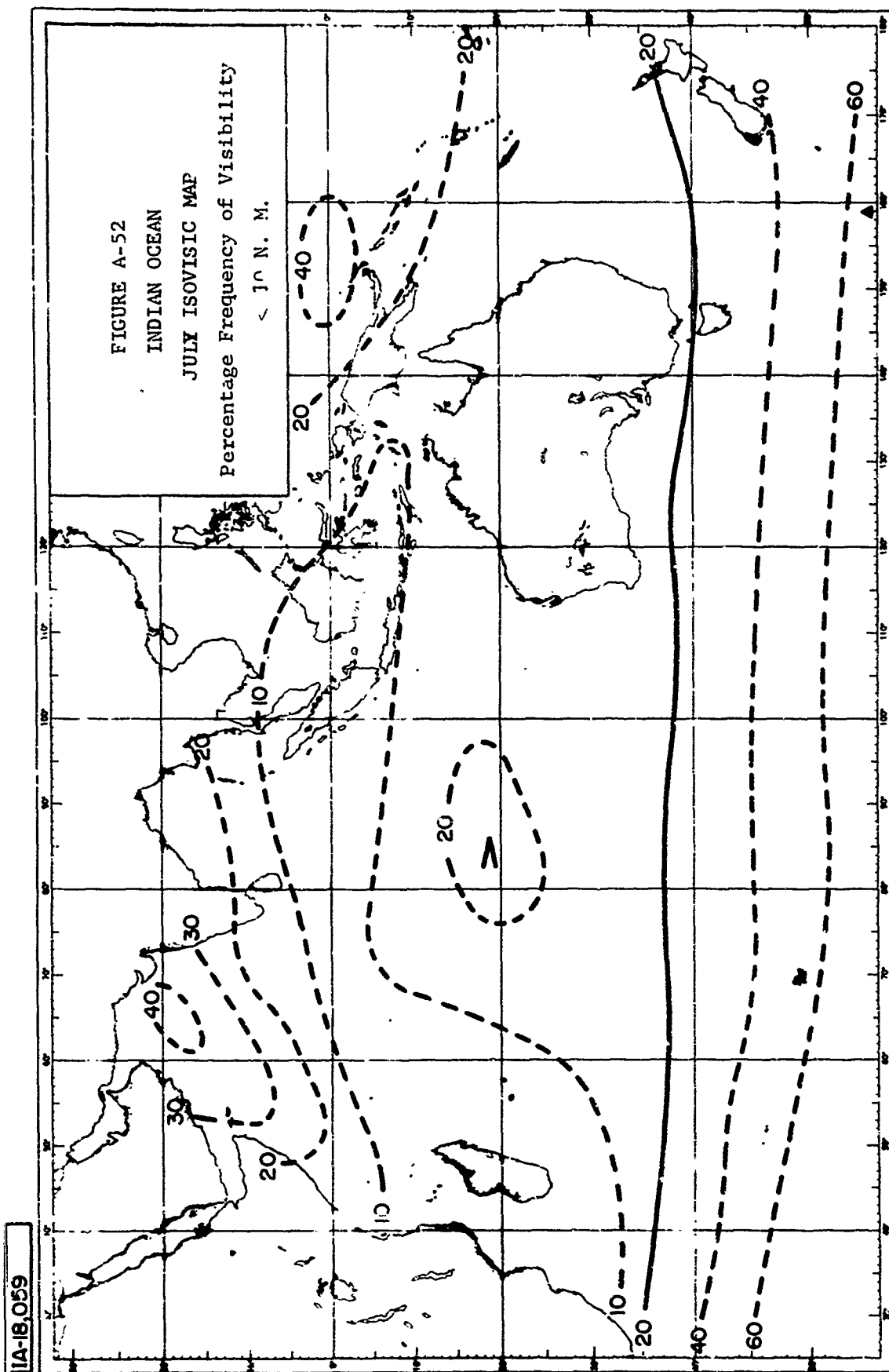
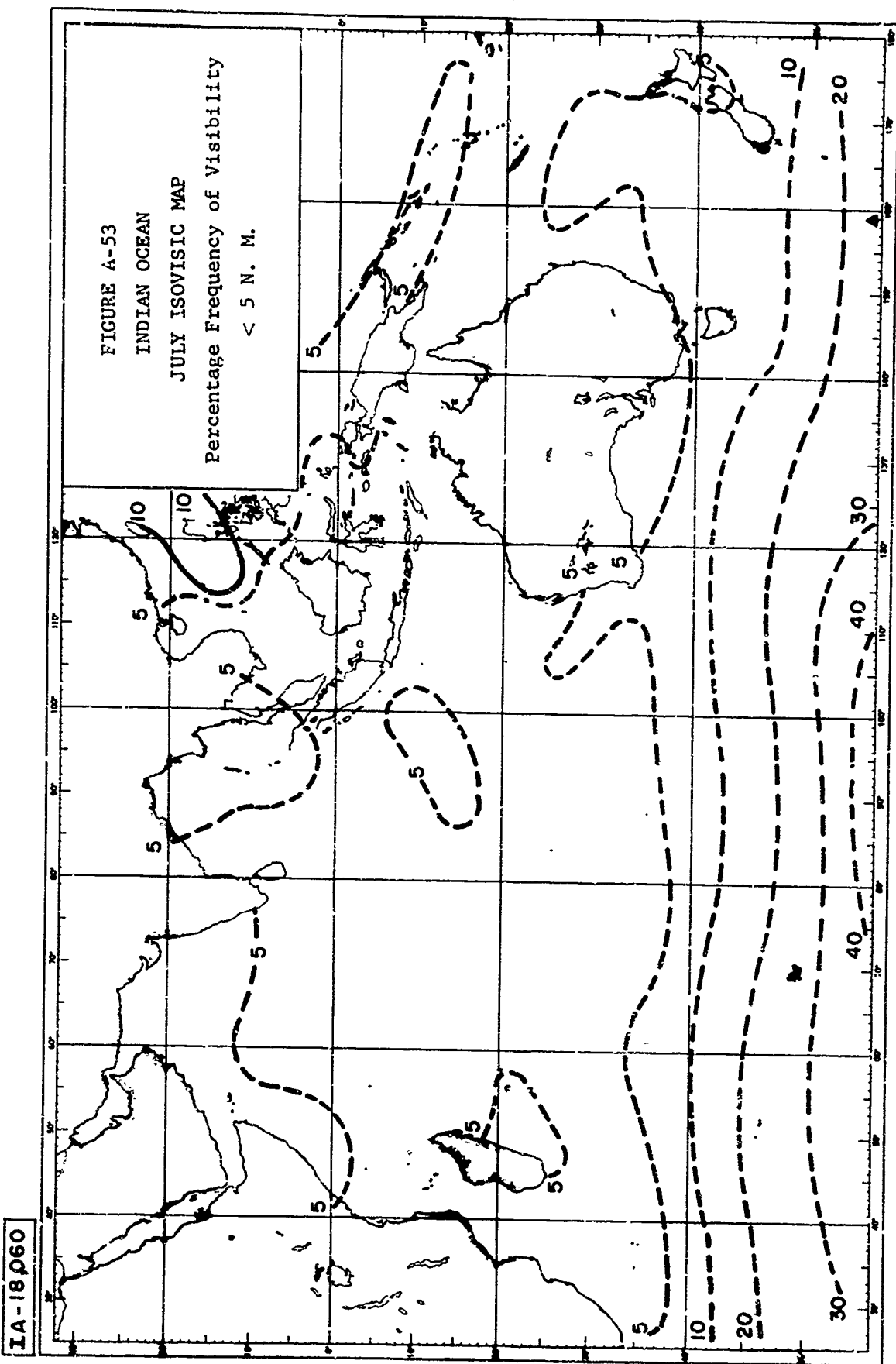


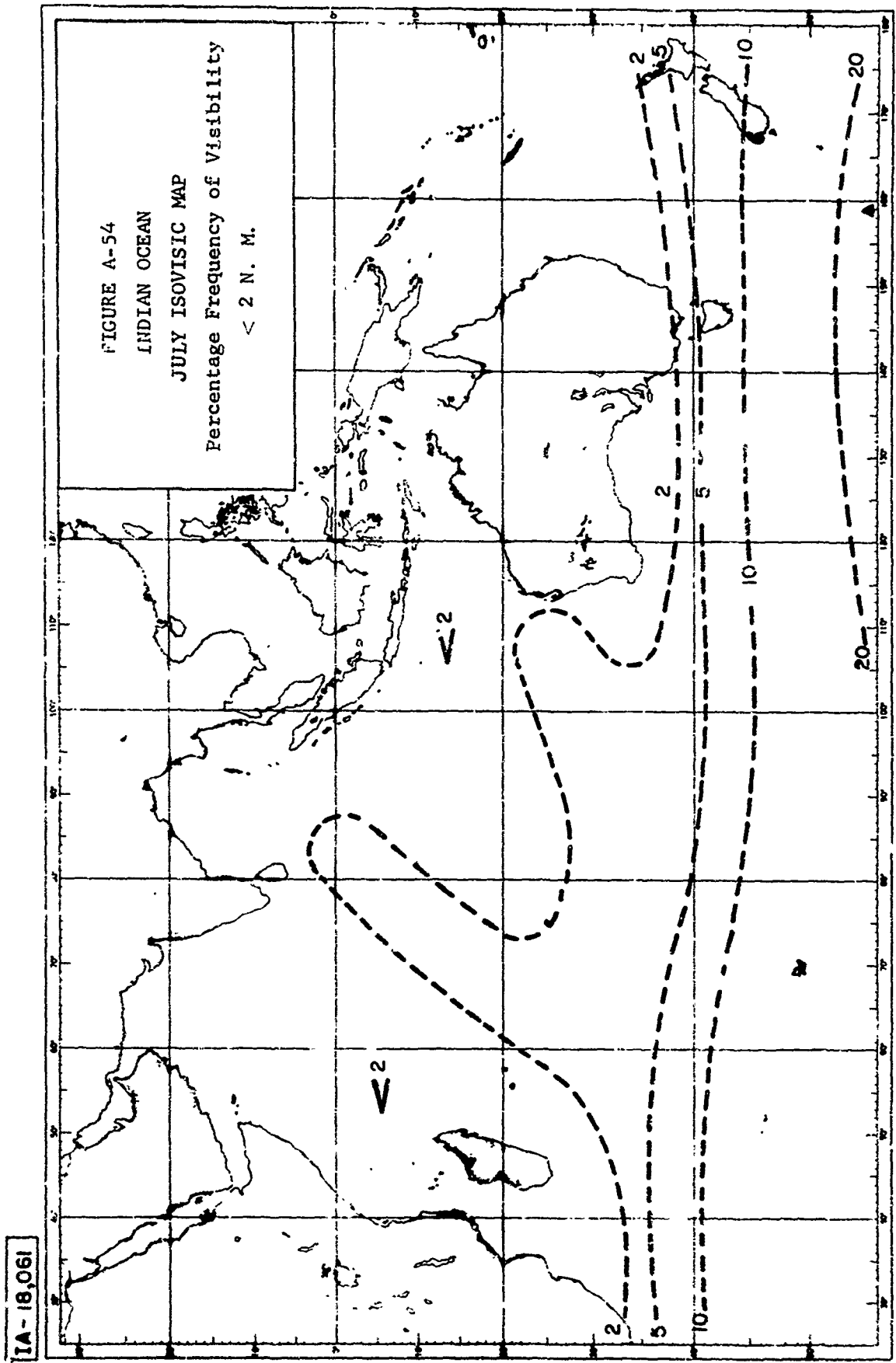
FIGURE A-51
INDIAN OCEAN
JULY ISOVISIC MAP
Percentage Frequency of Visibility
< 25 N. M.

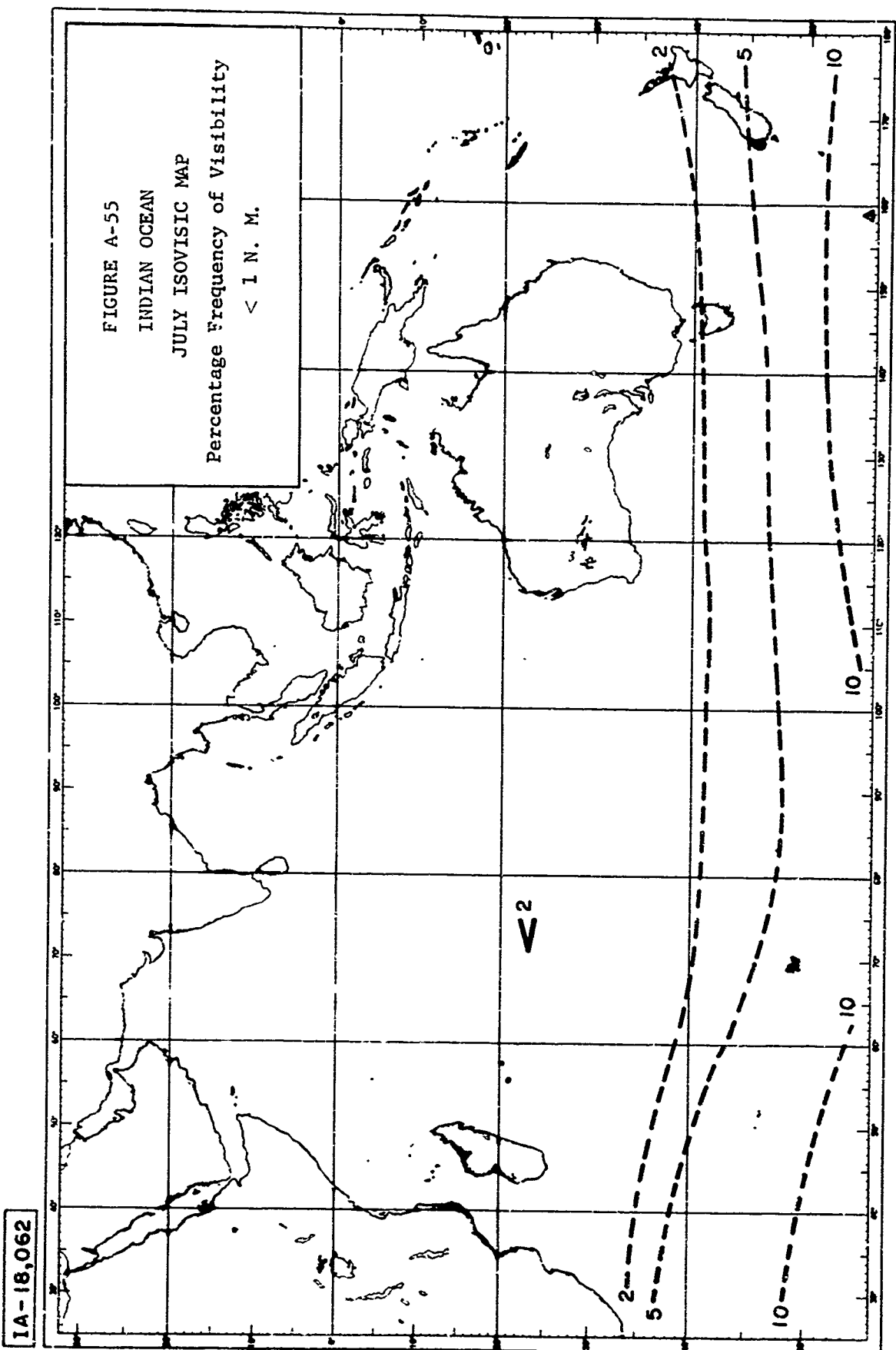


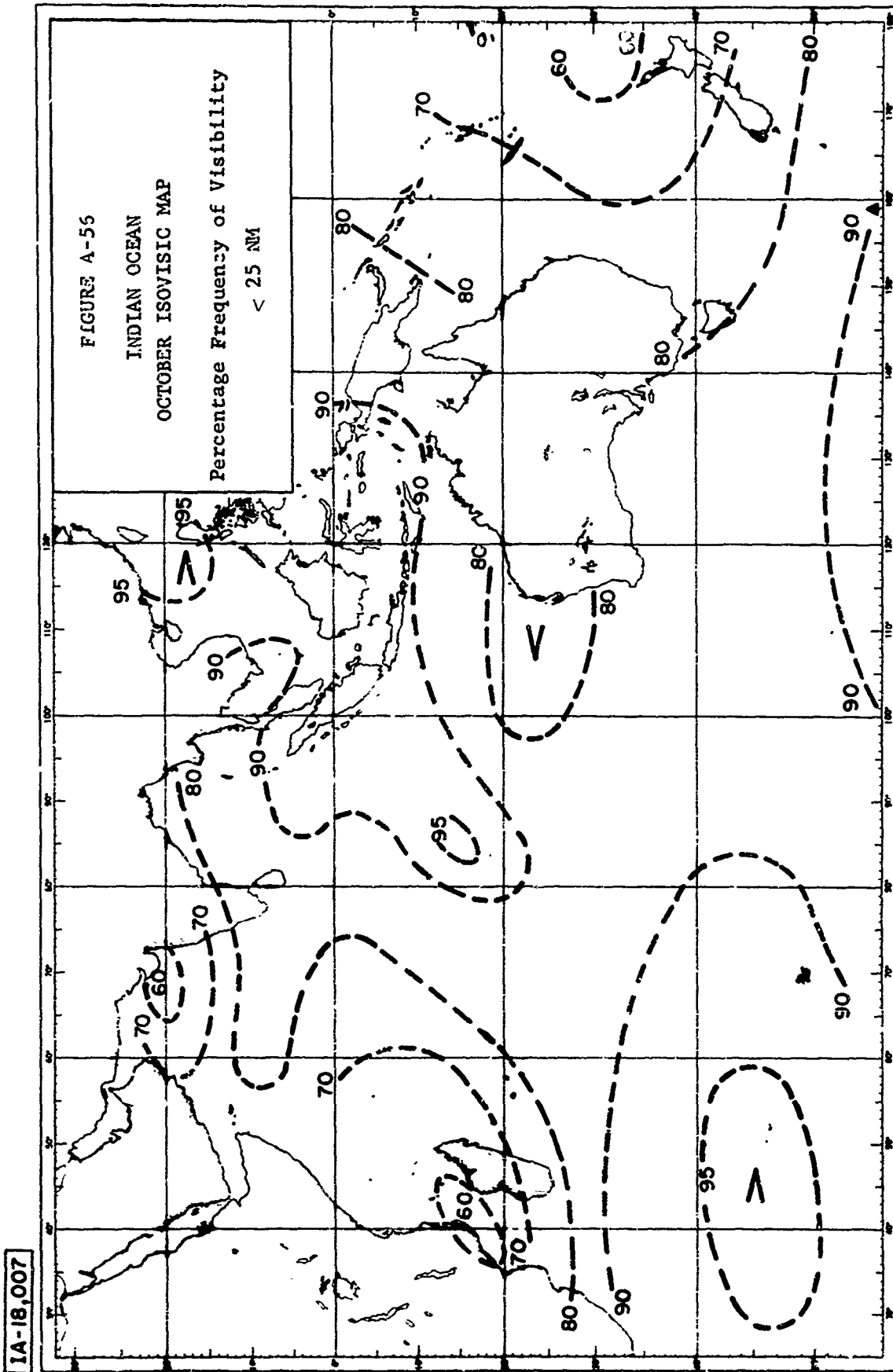
IA-18,058

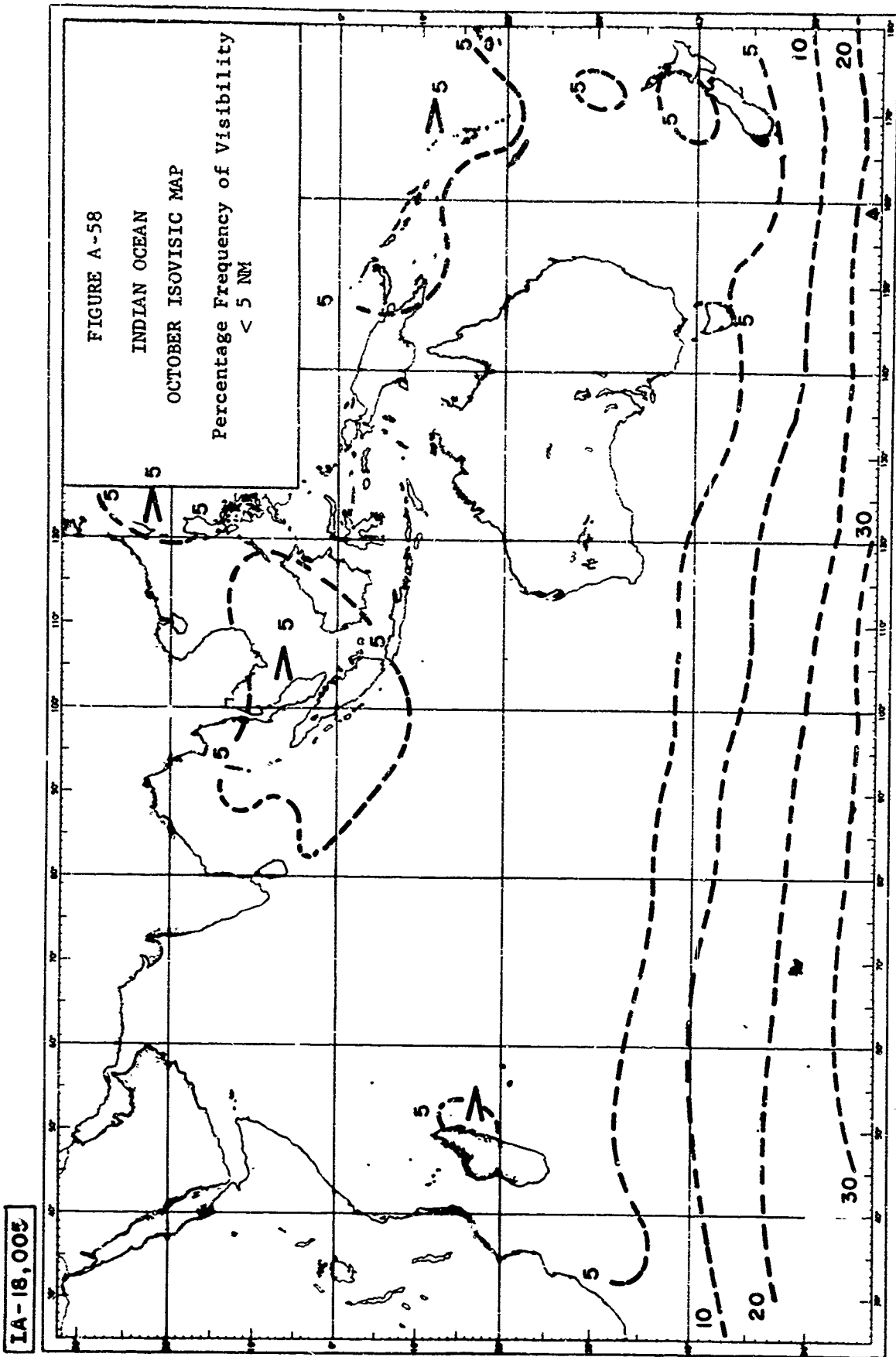


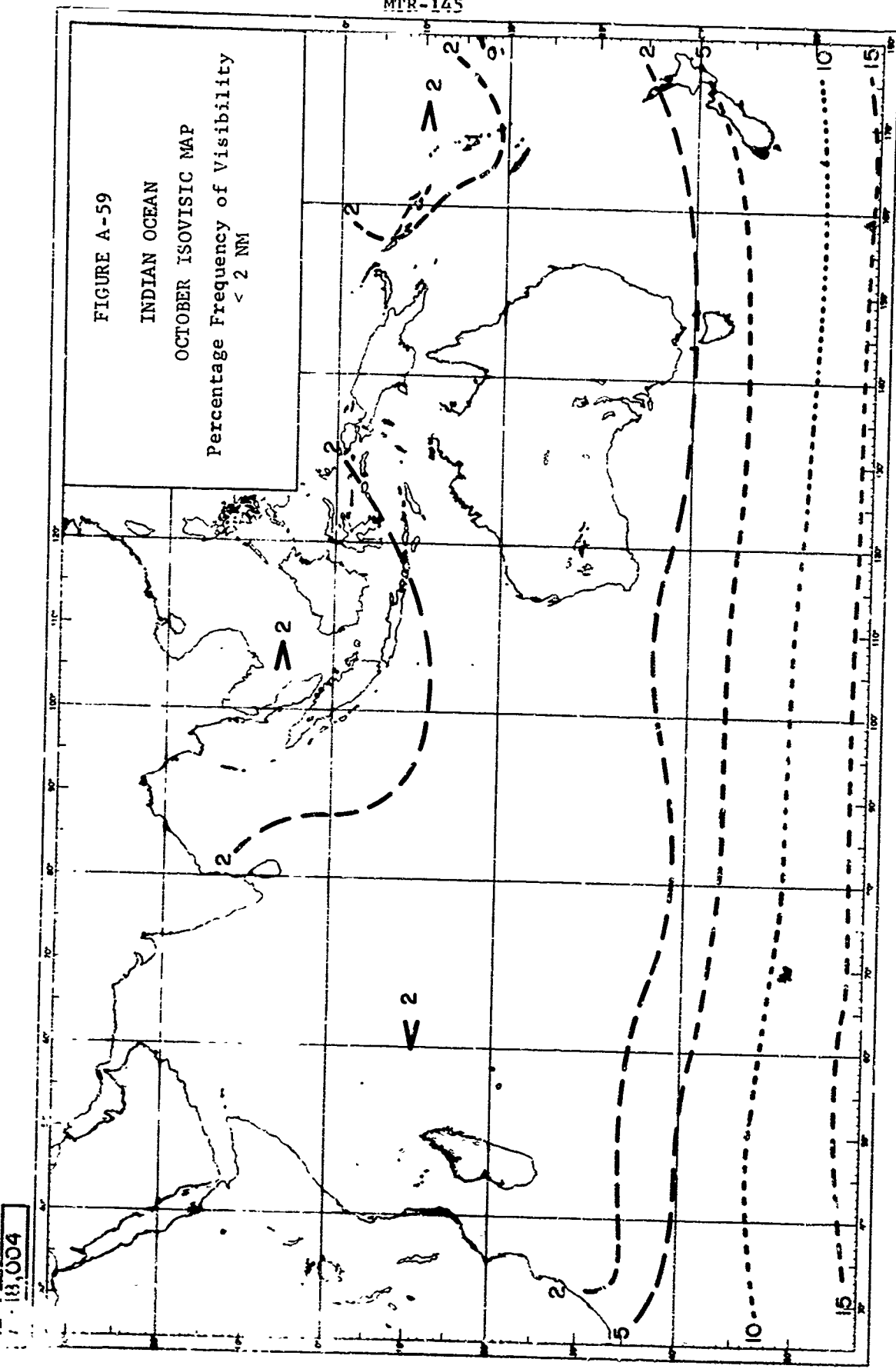


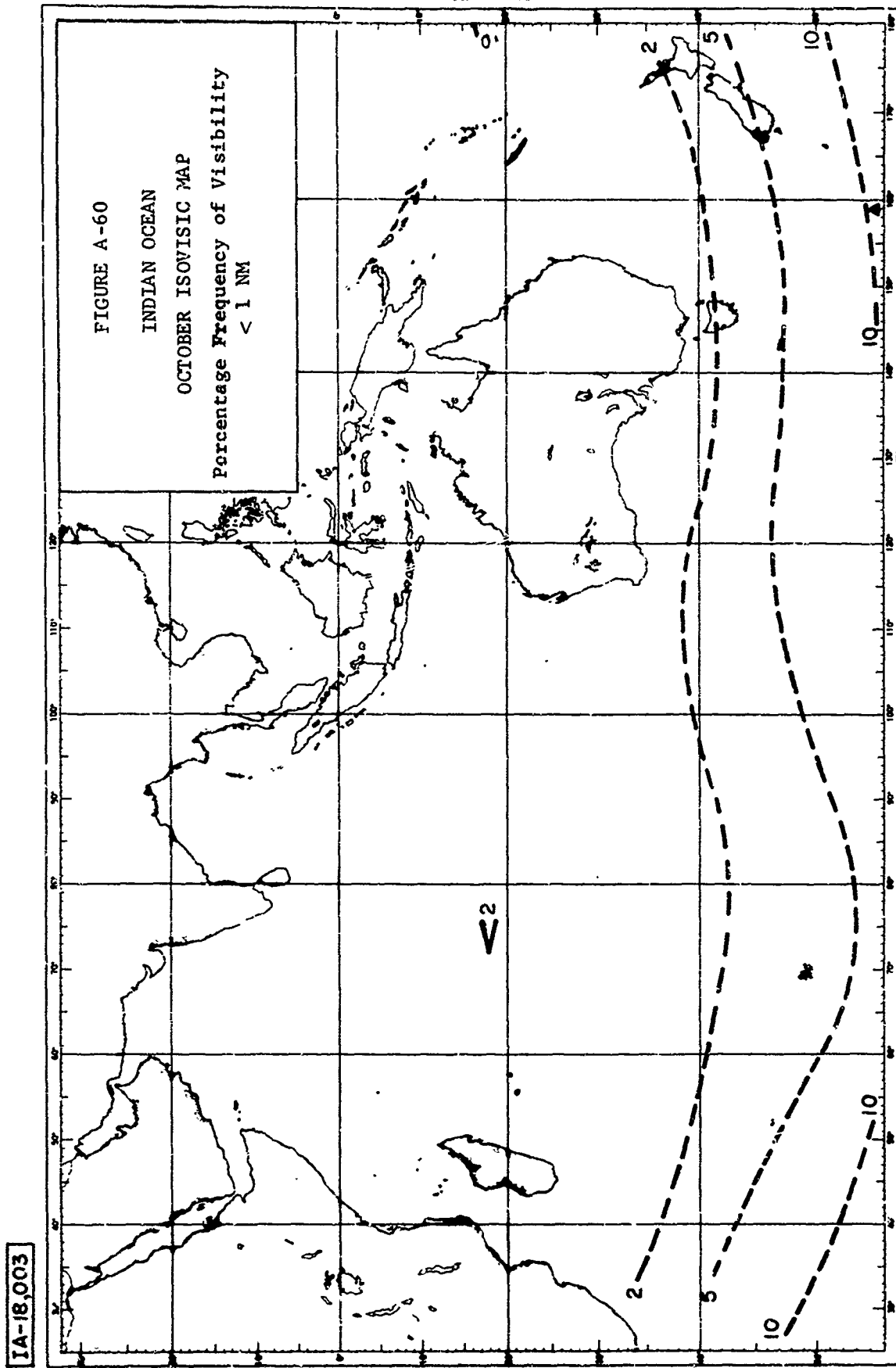








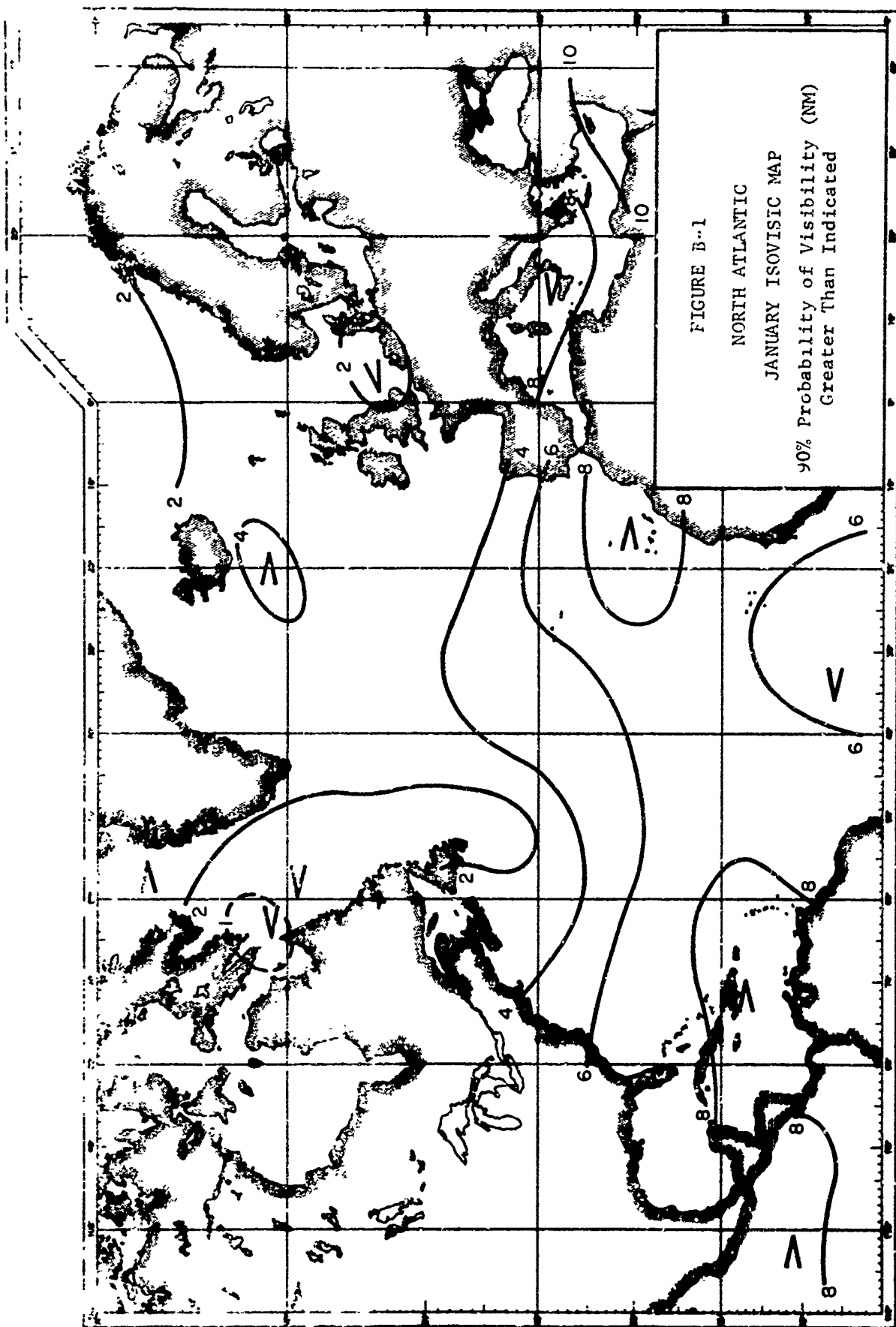




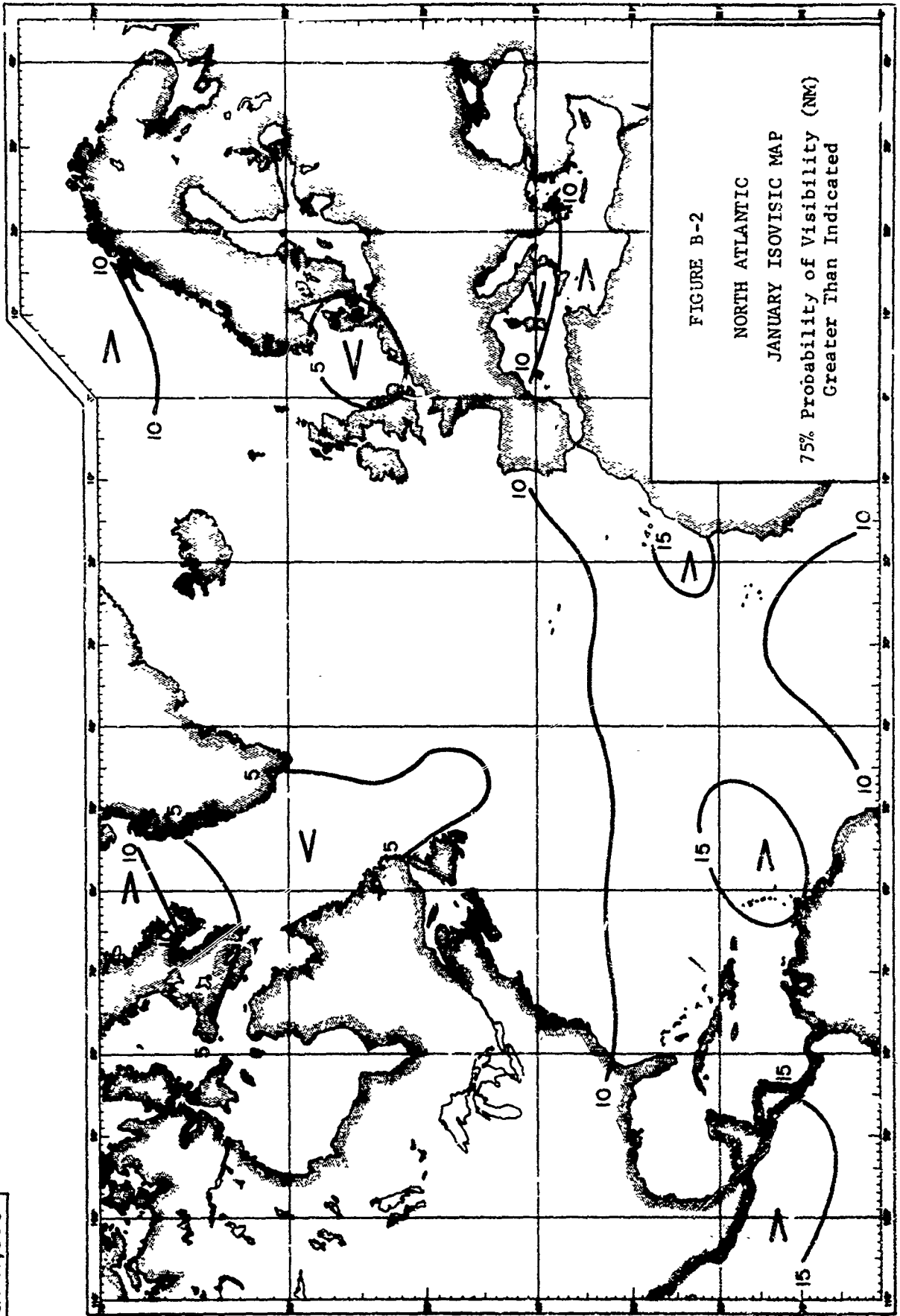
APPENDIX B

ISOVISIC MAPS - 90 PERCENT, 75 PERCENT, 50 PERCENT AND
25 PERCENT PROBABILITY OF VISIBILITY GREATER THAN INDICATED

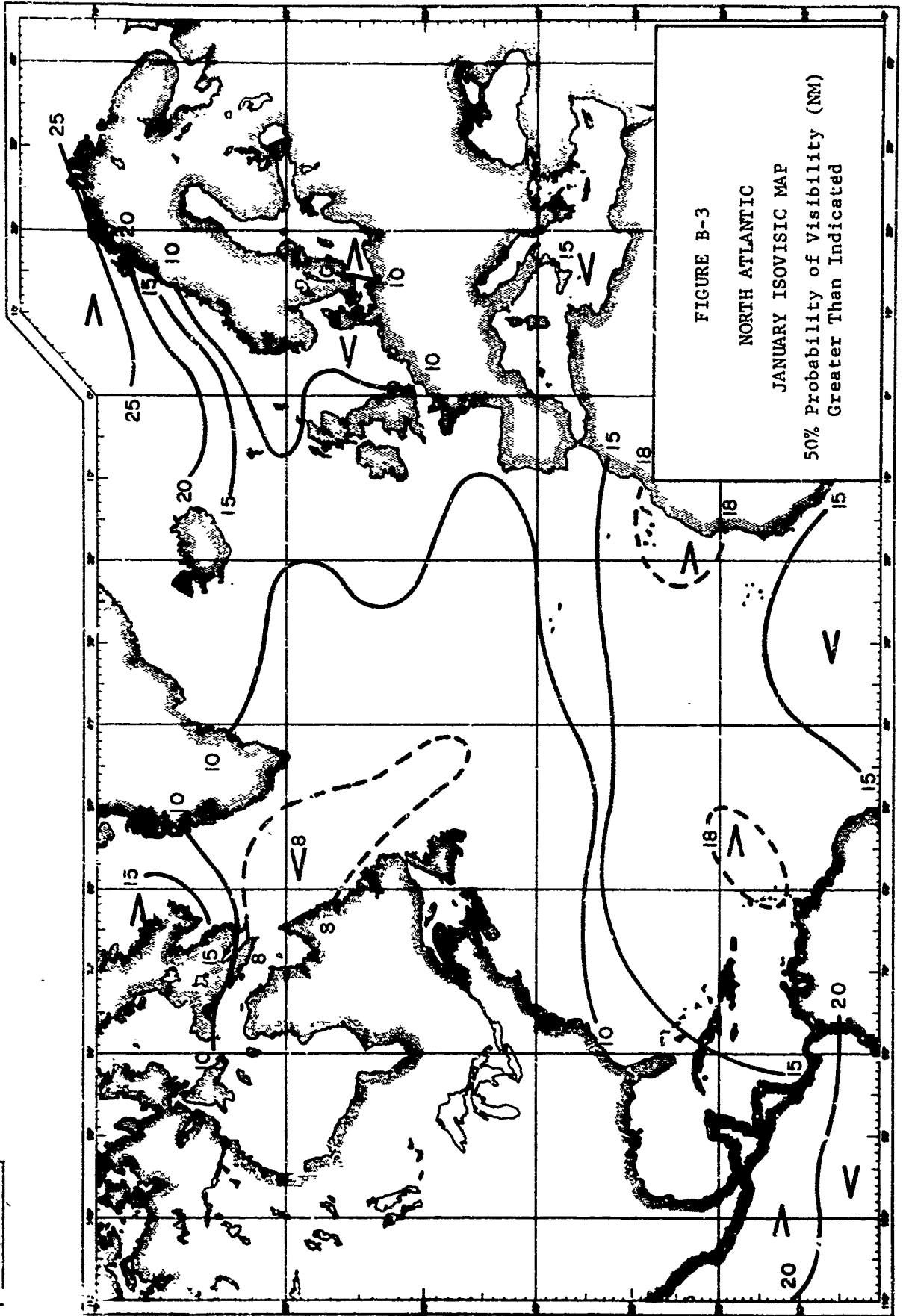
NA 17,955

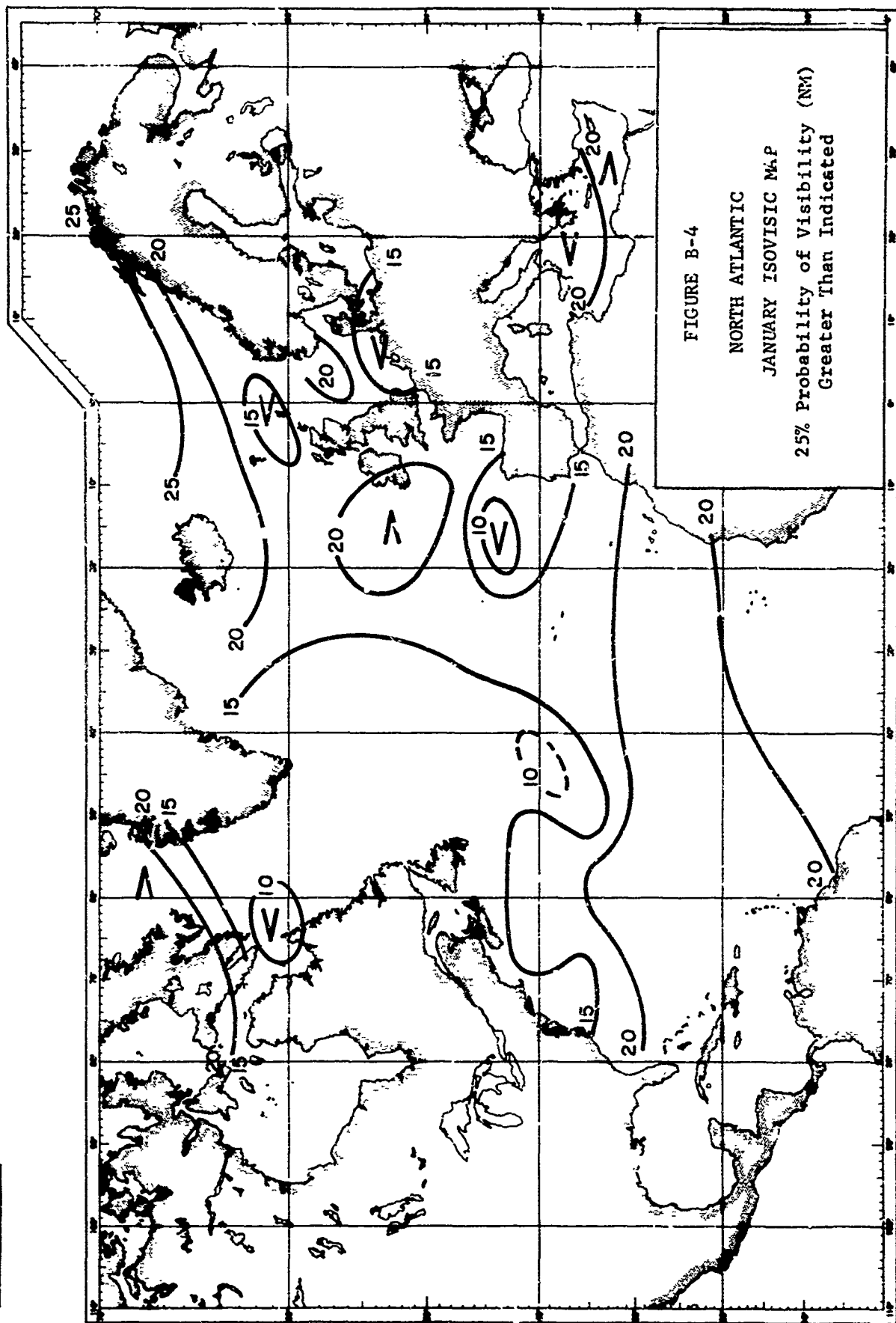


IA-17,956

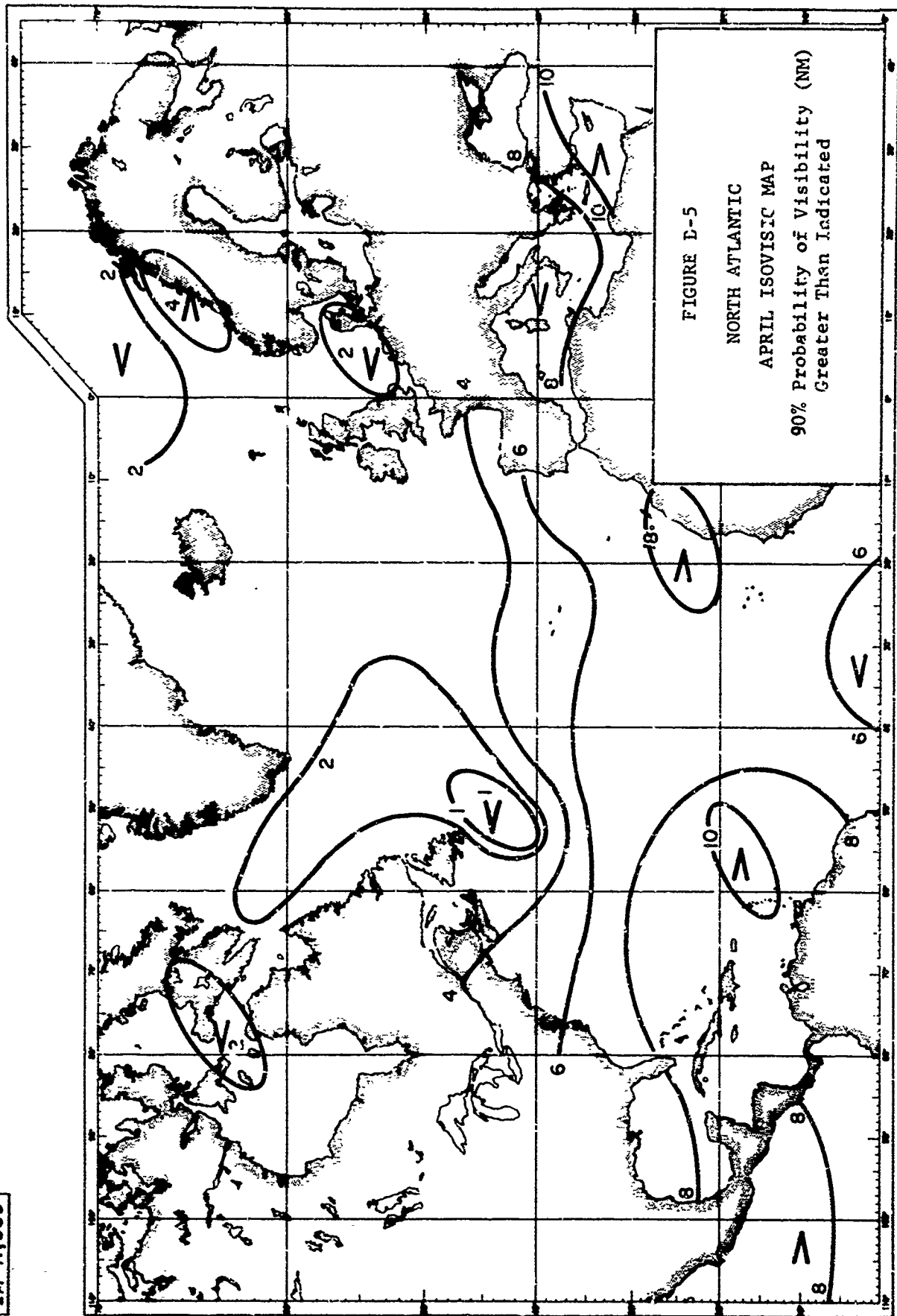


1A-17,957



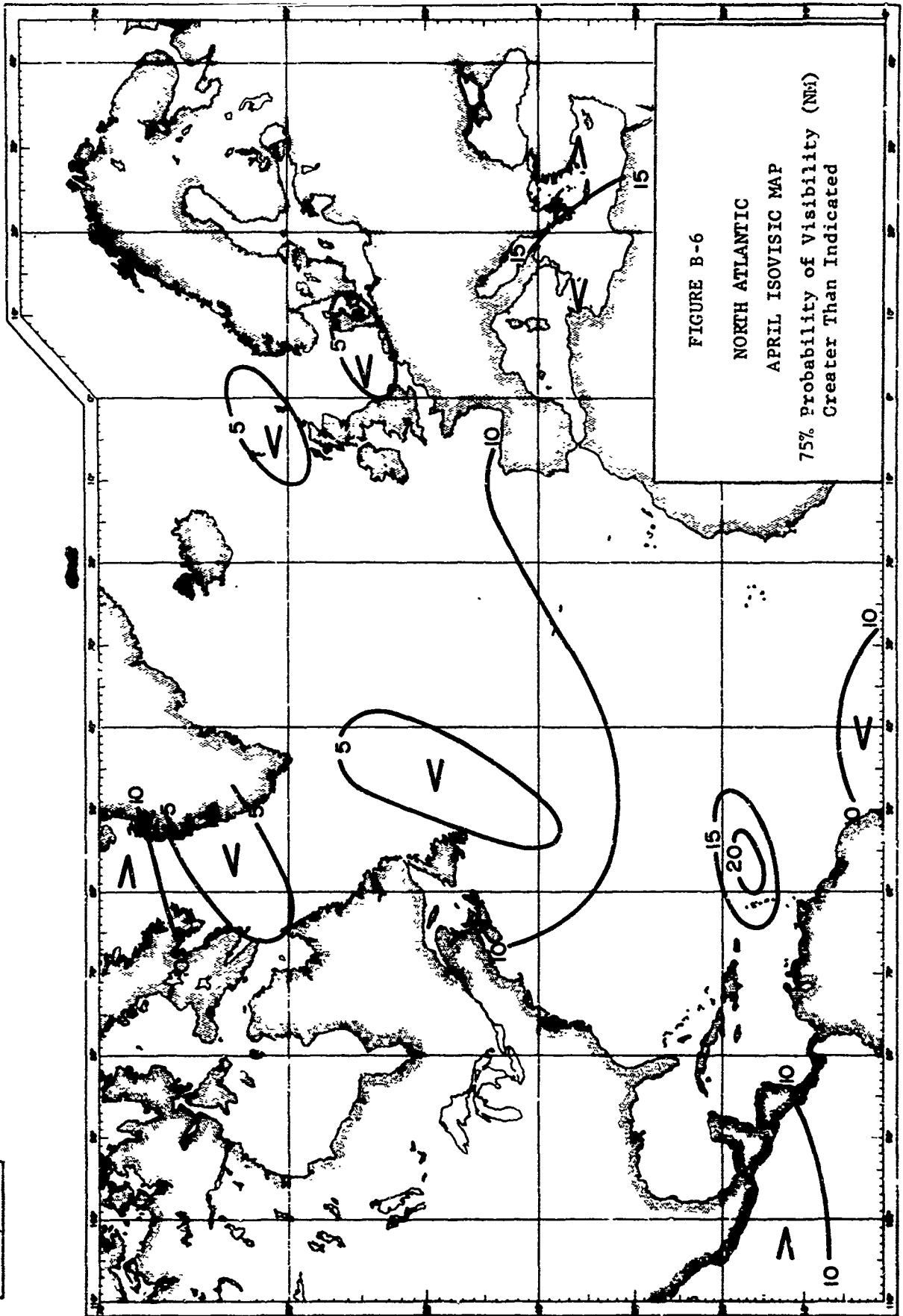


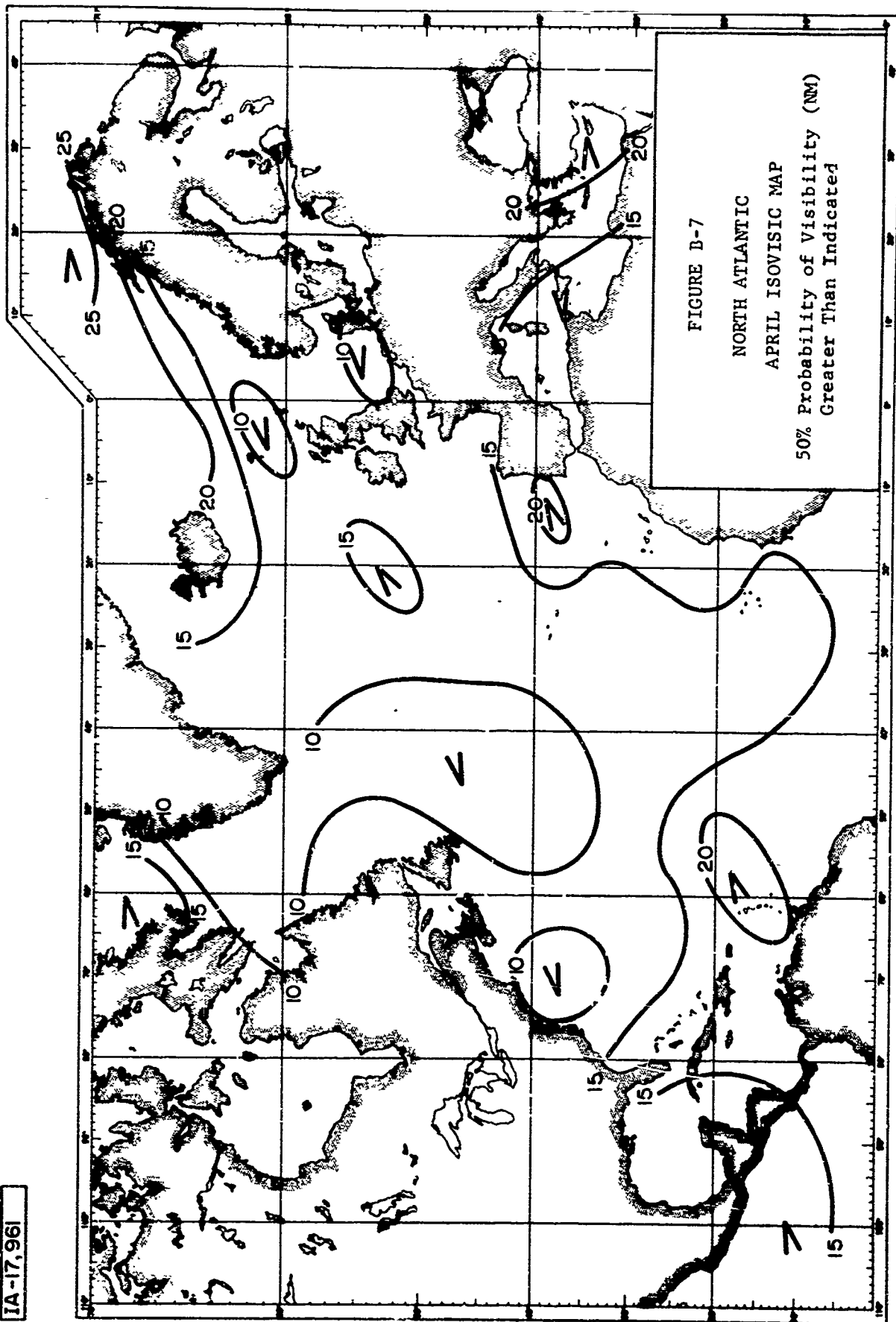
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IA-17,959

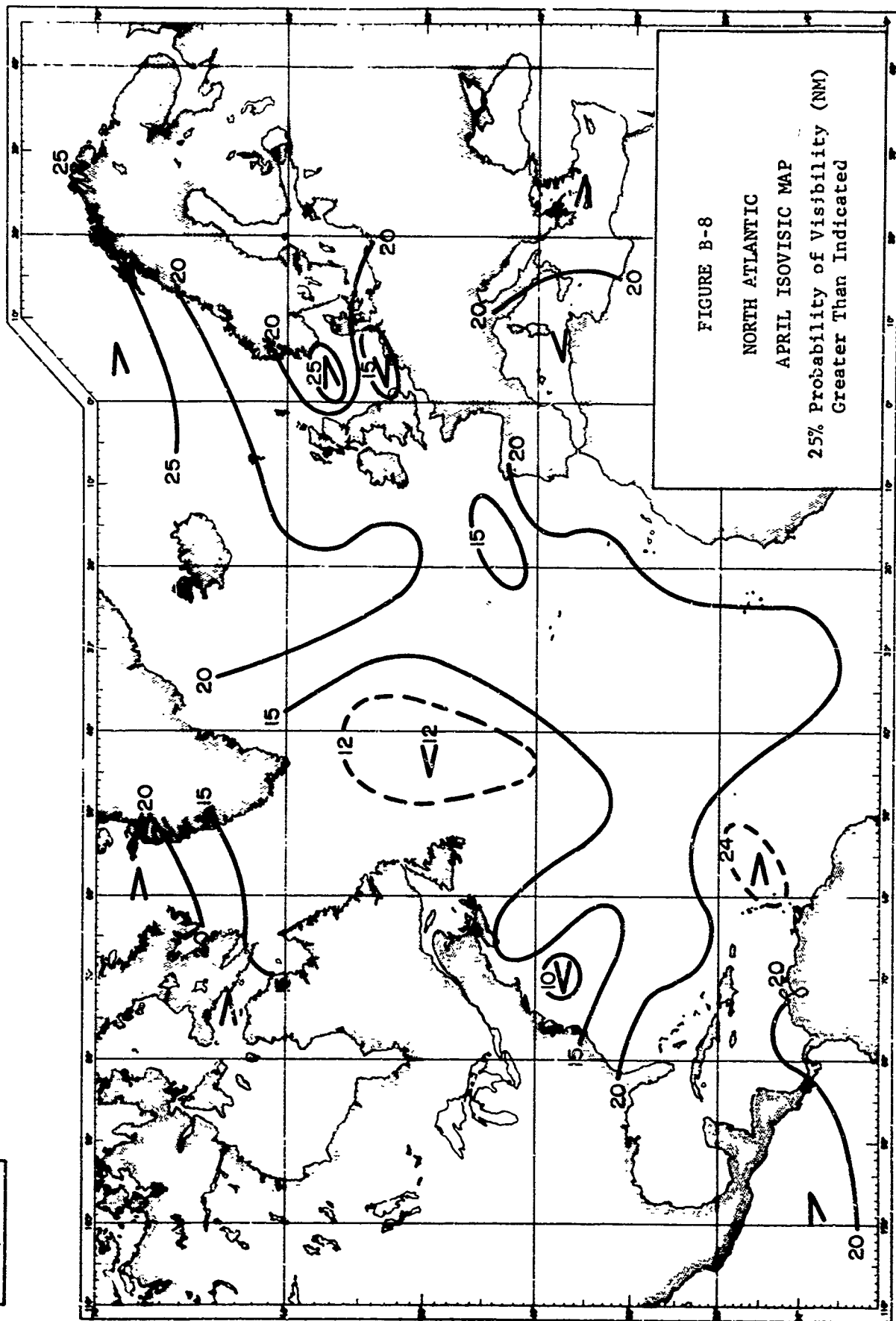
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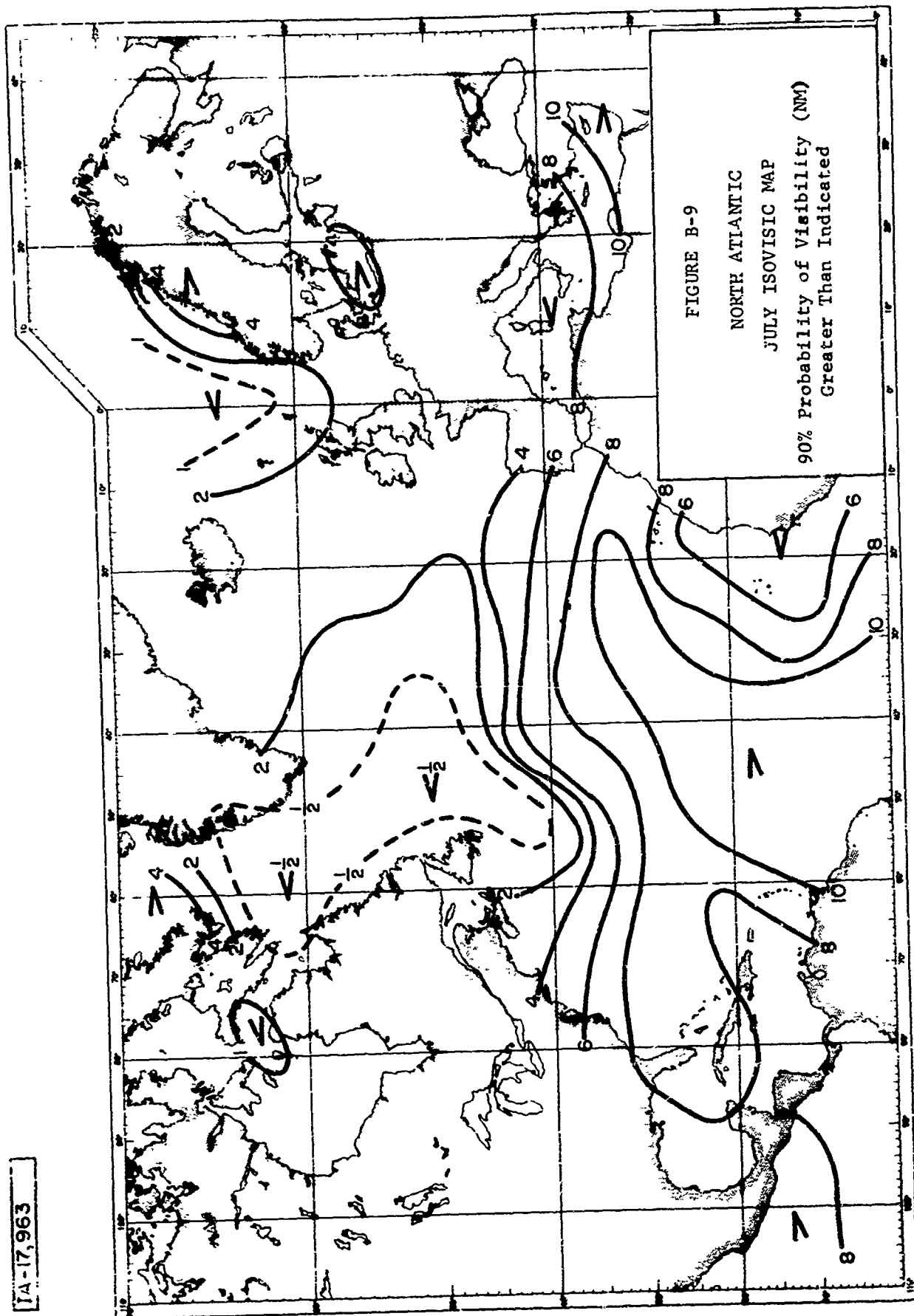


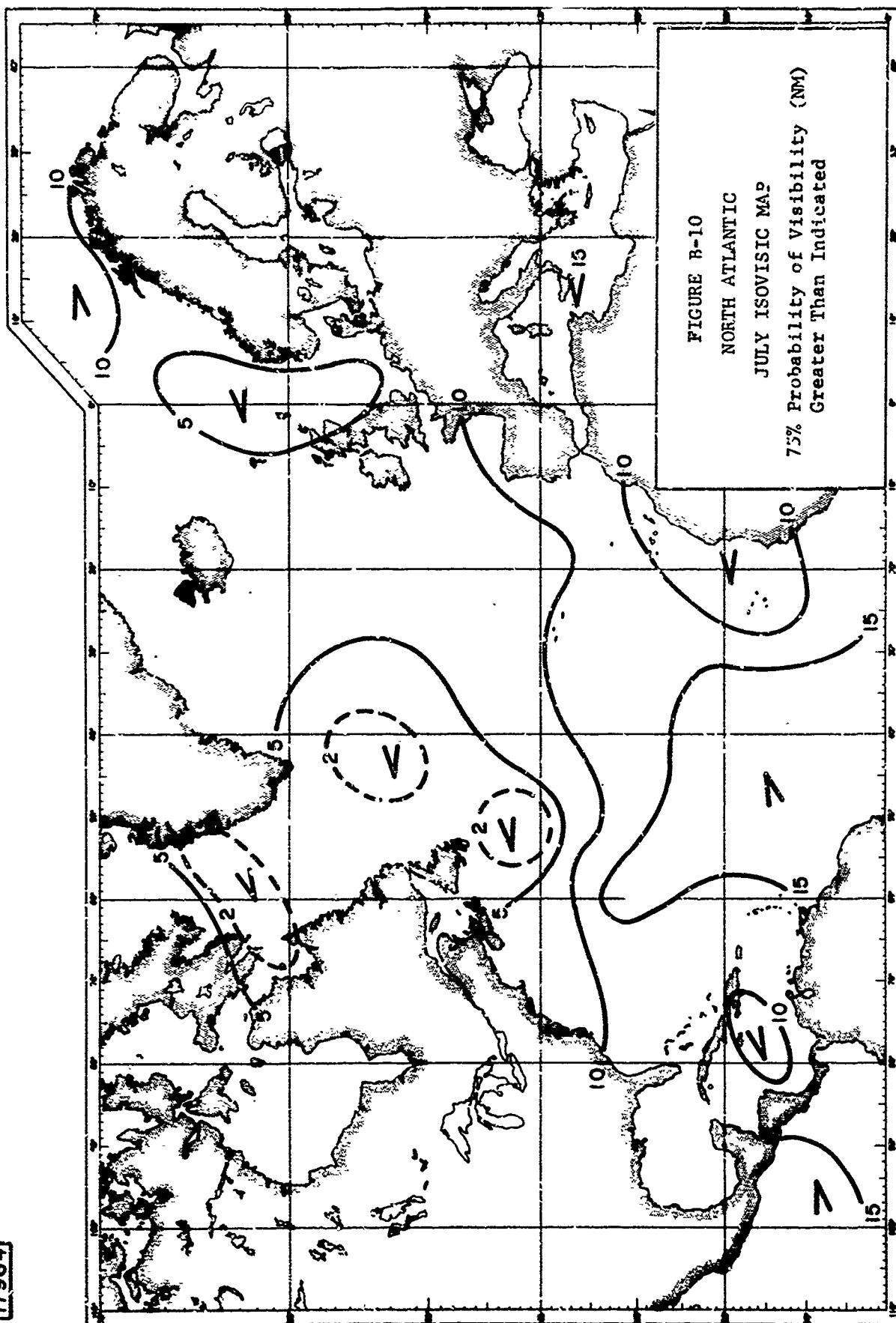


IA-17,961

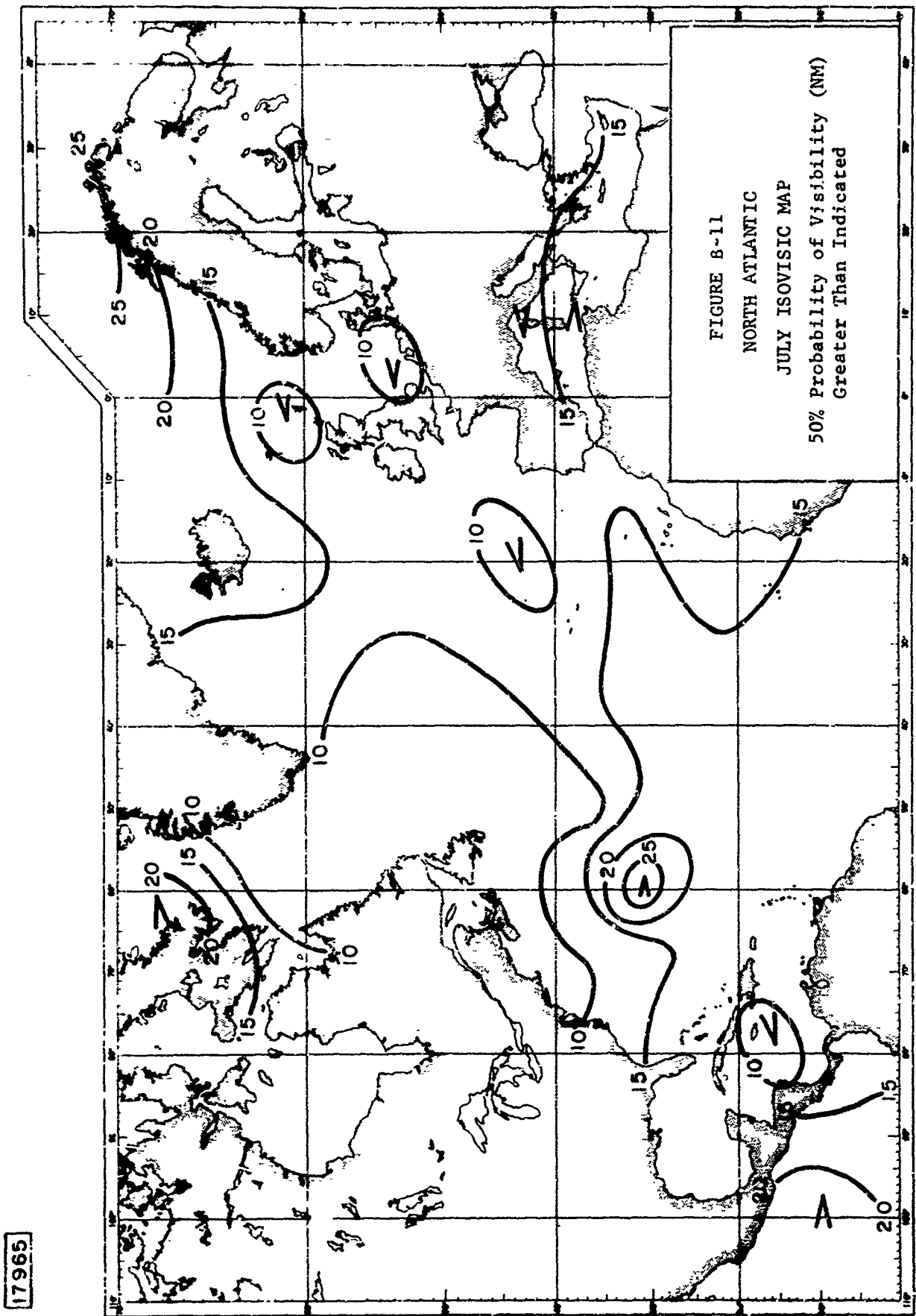
IA-17,962



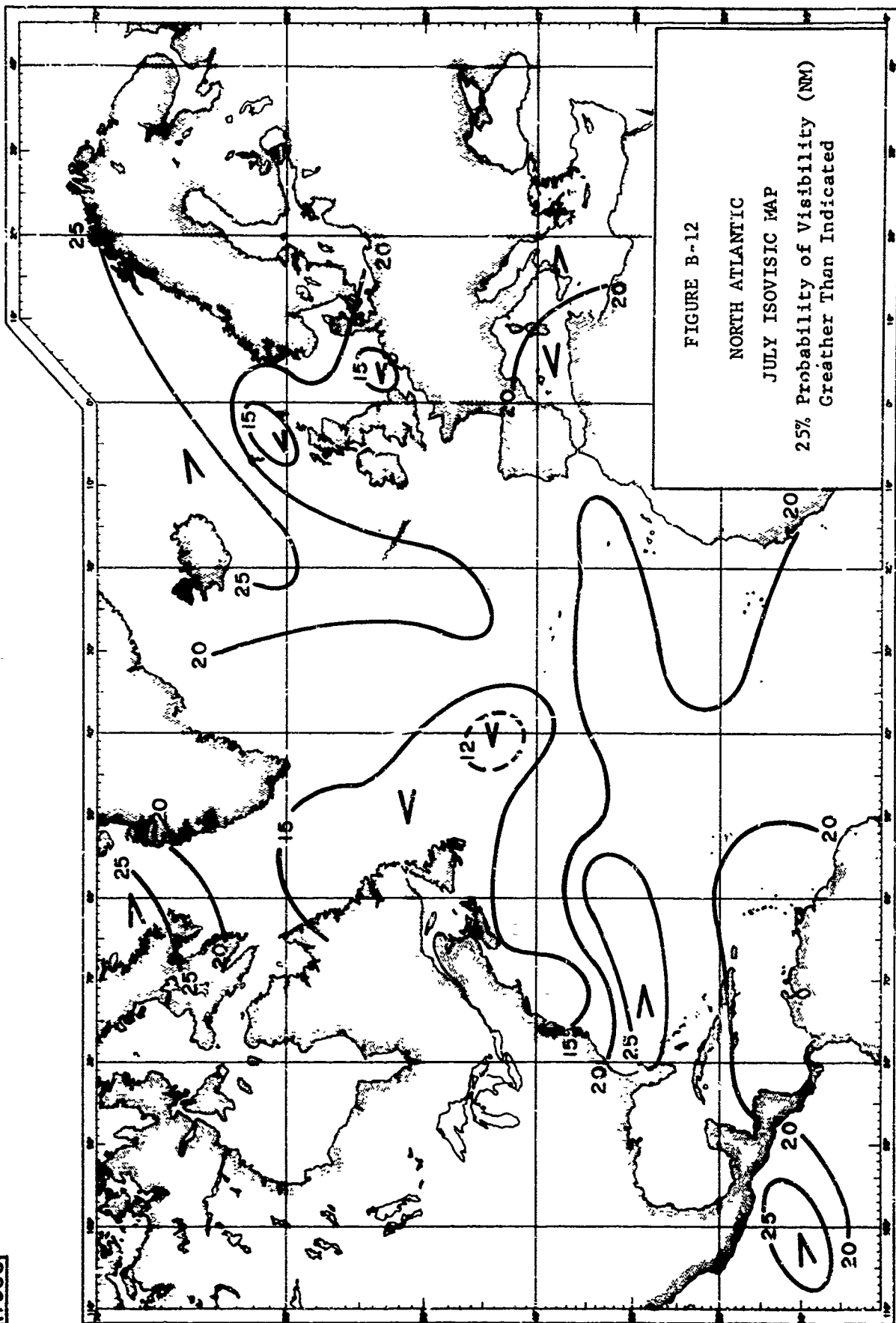




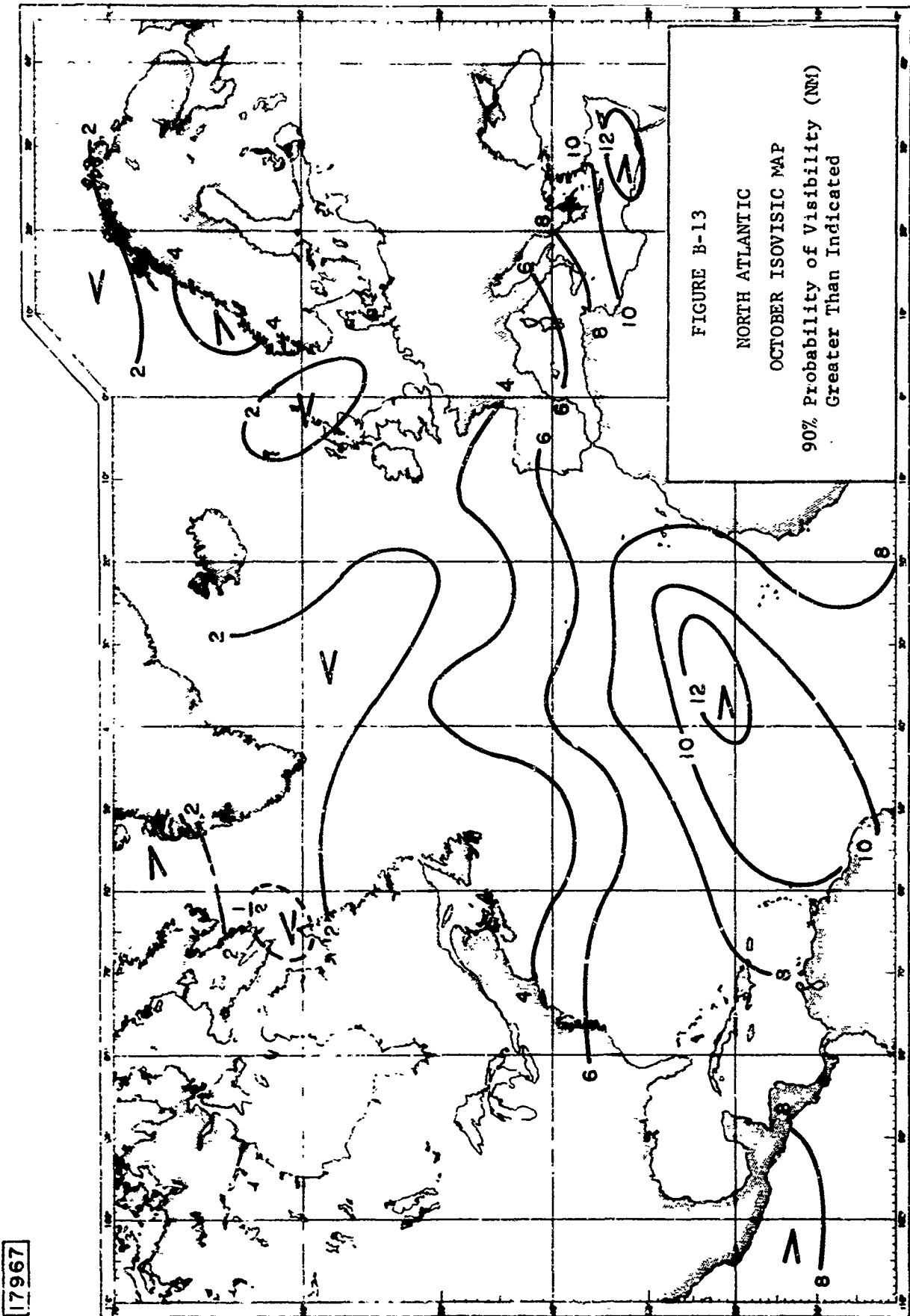
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17965

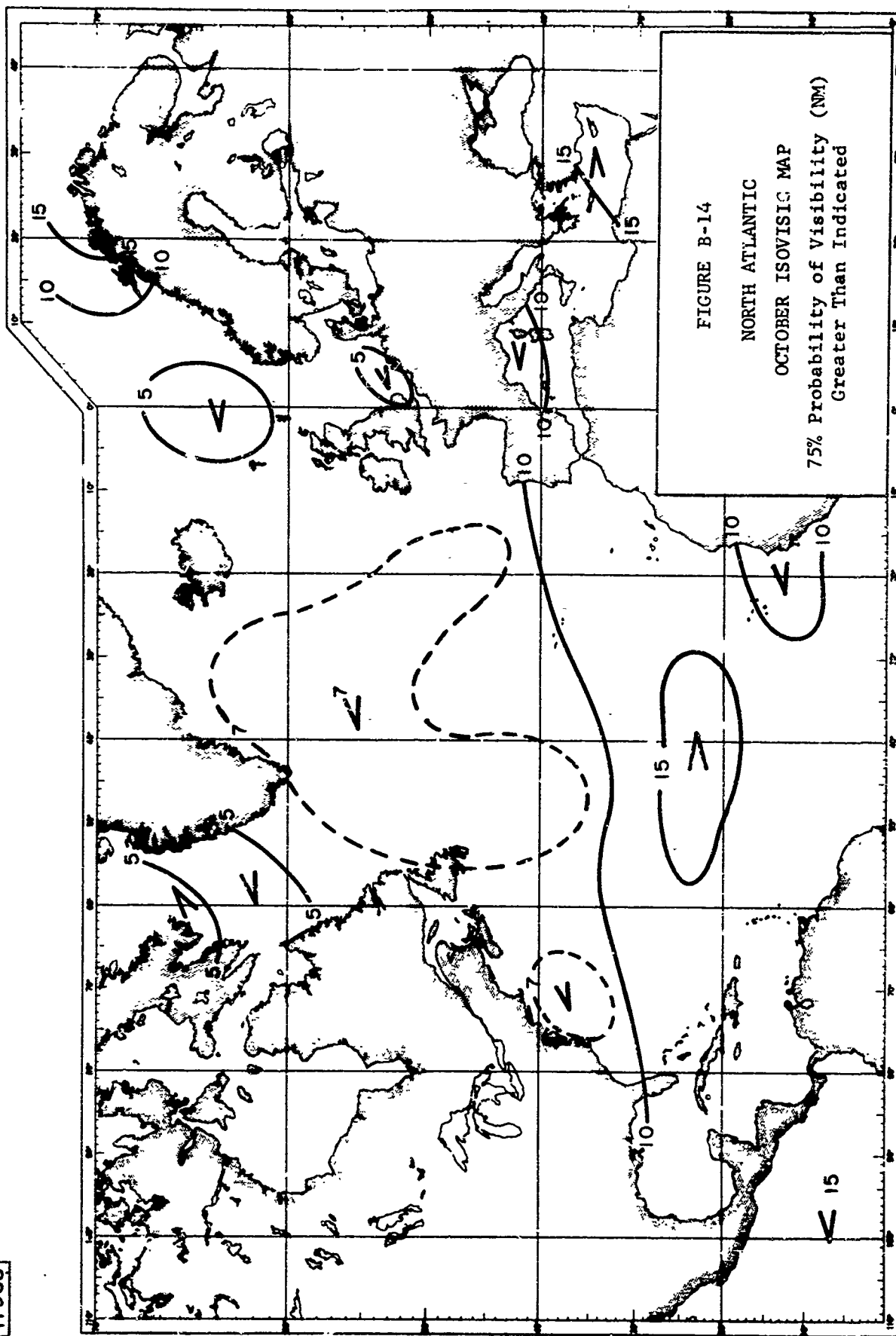


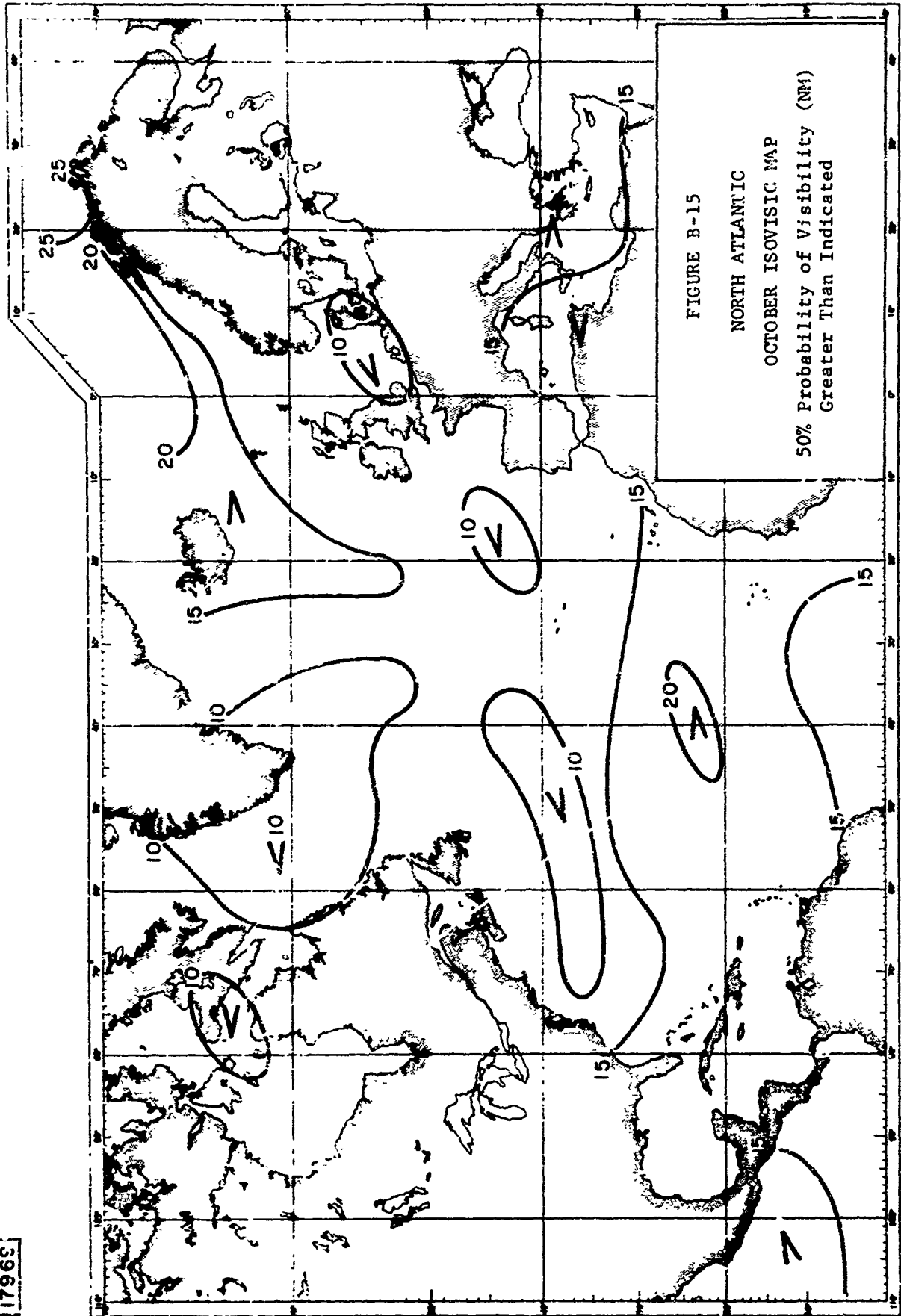
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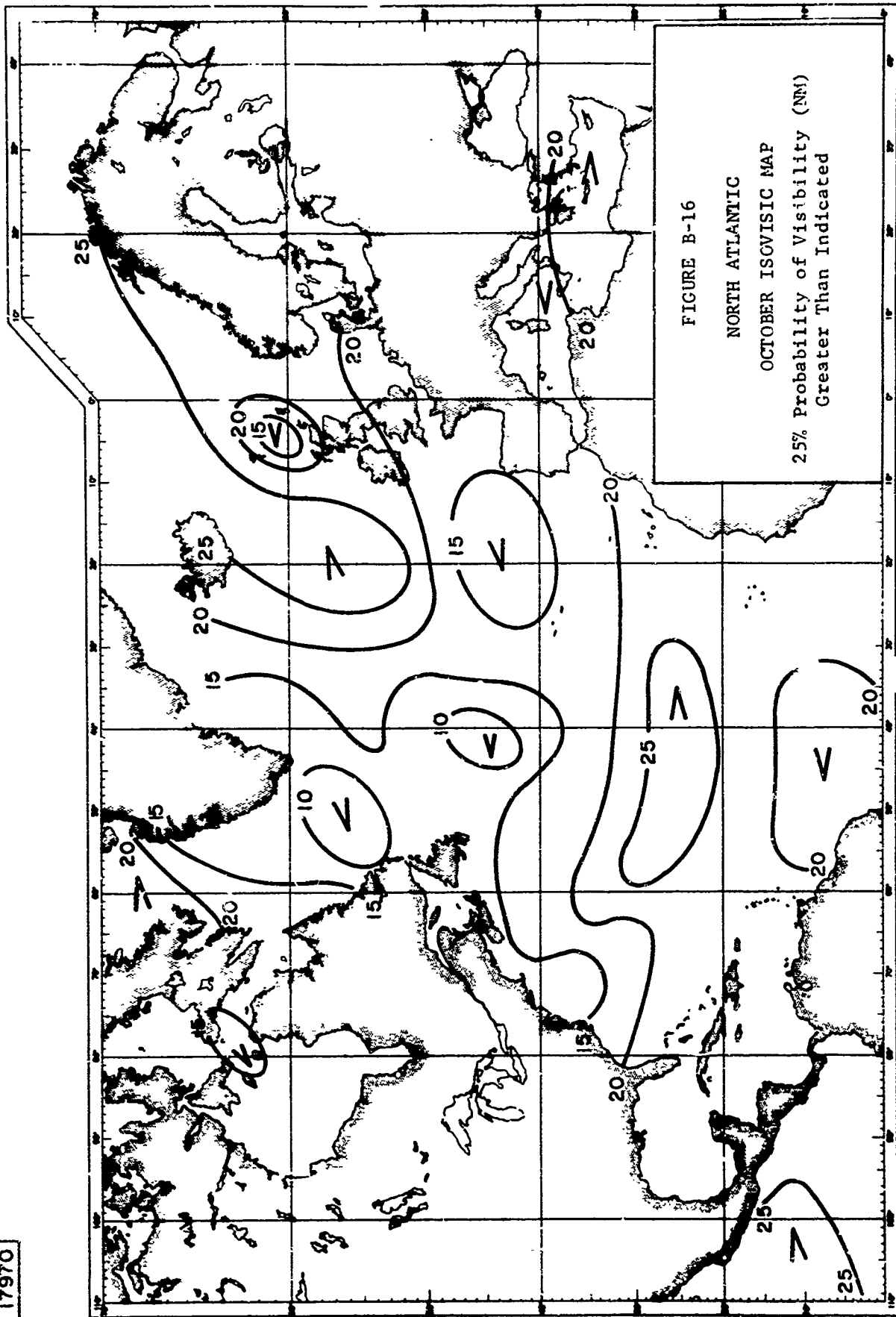
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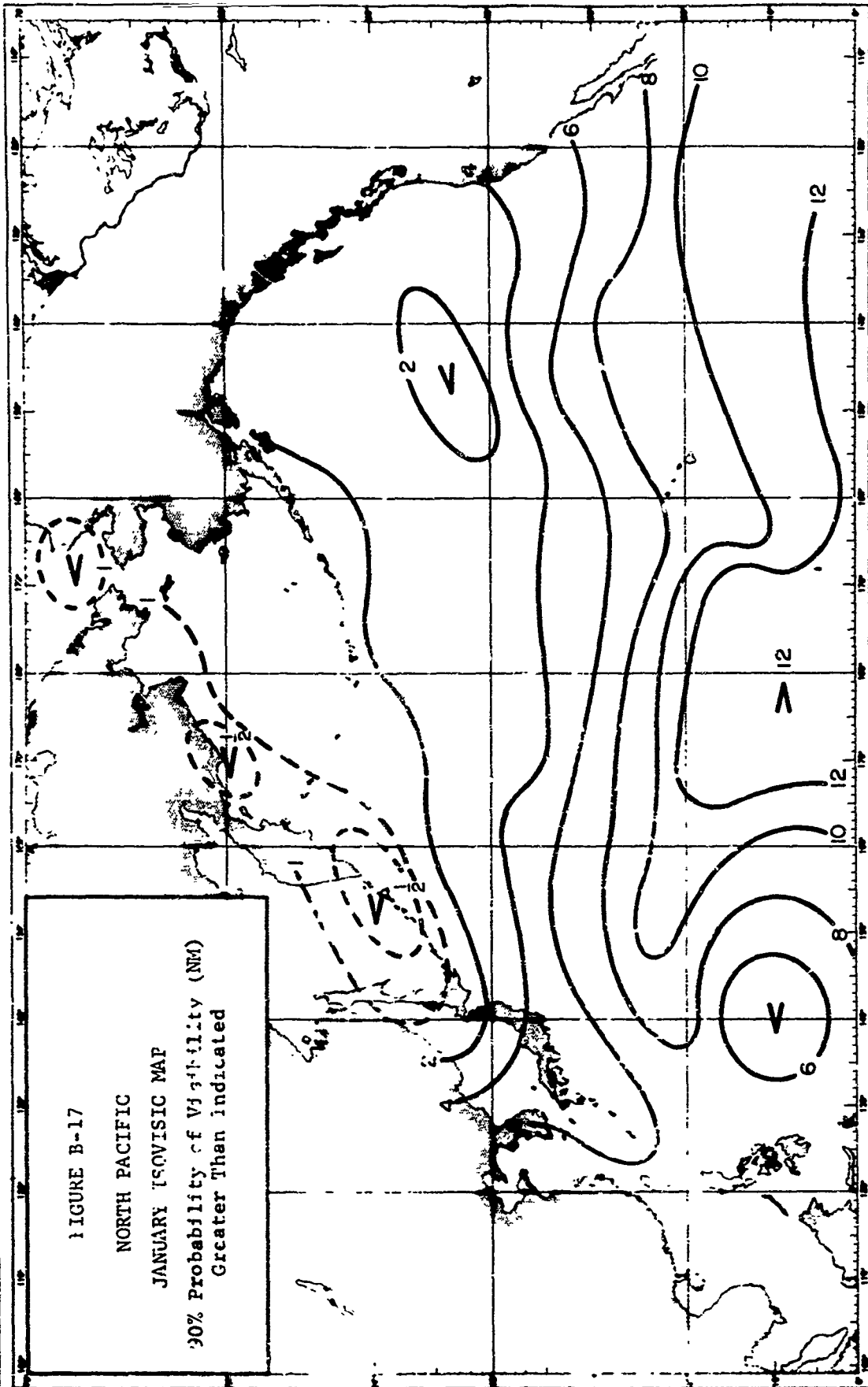


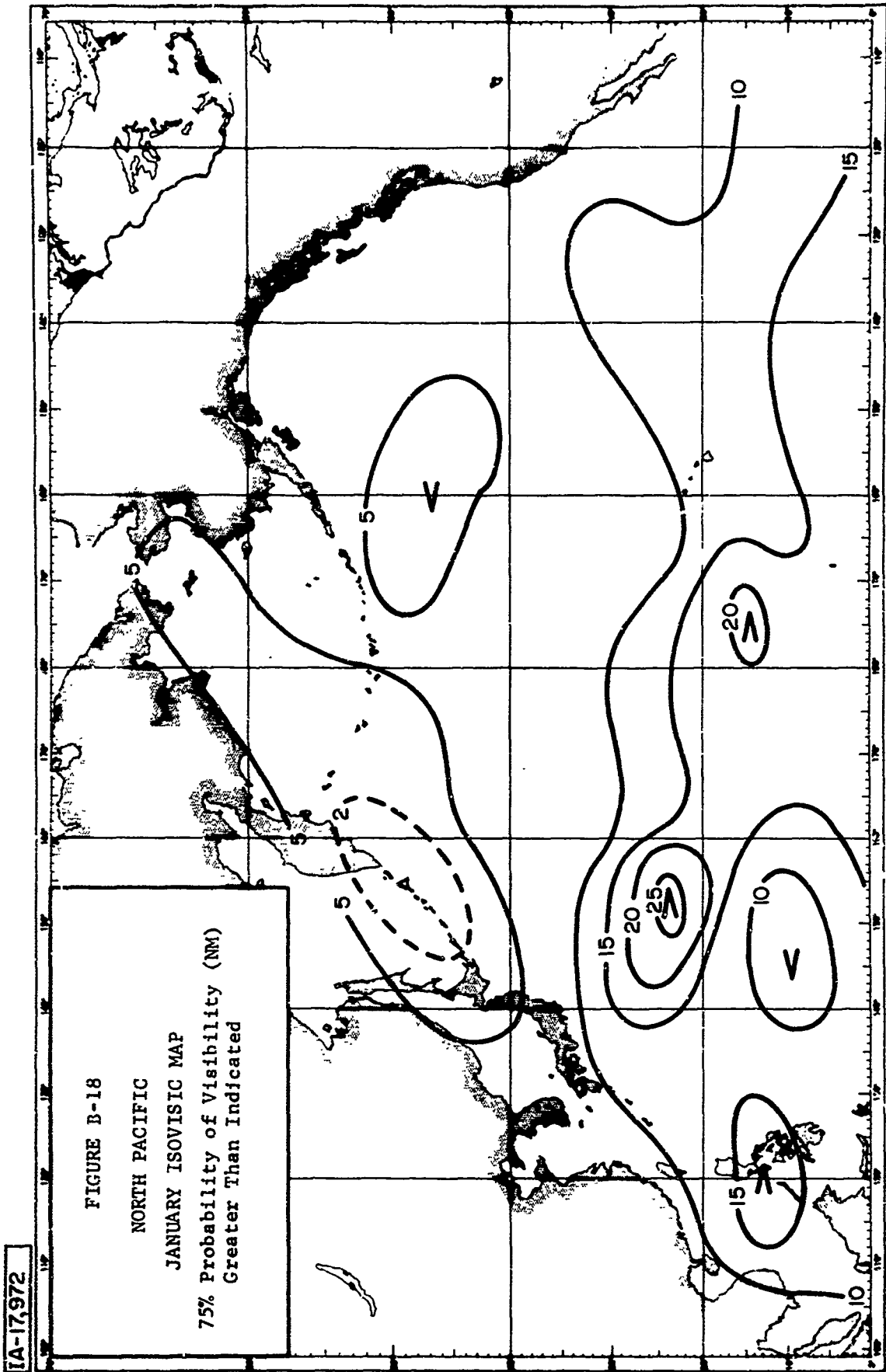


17963

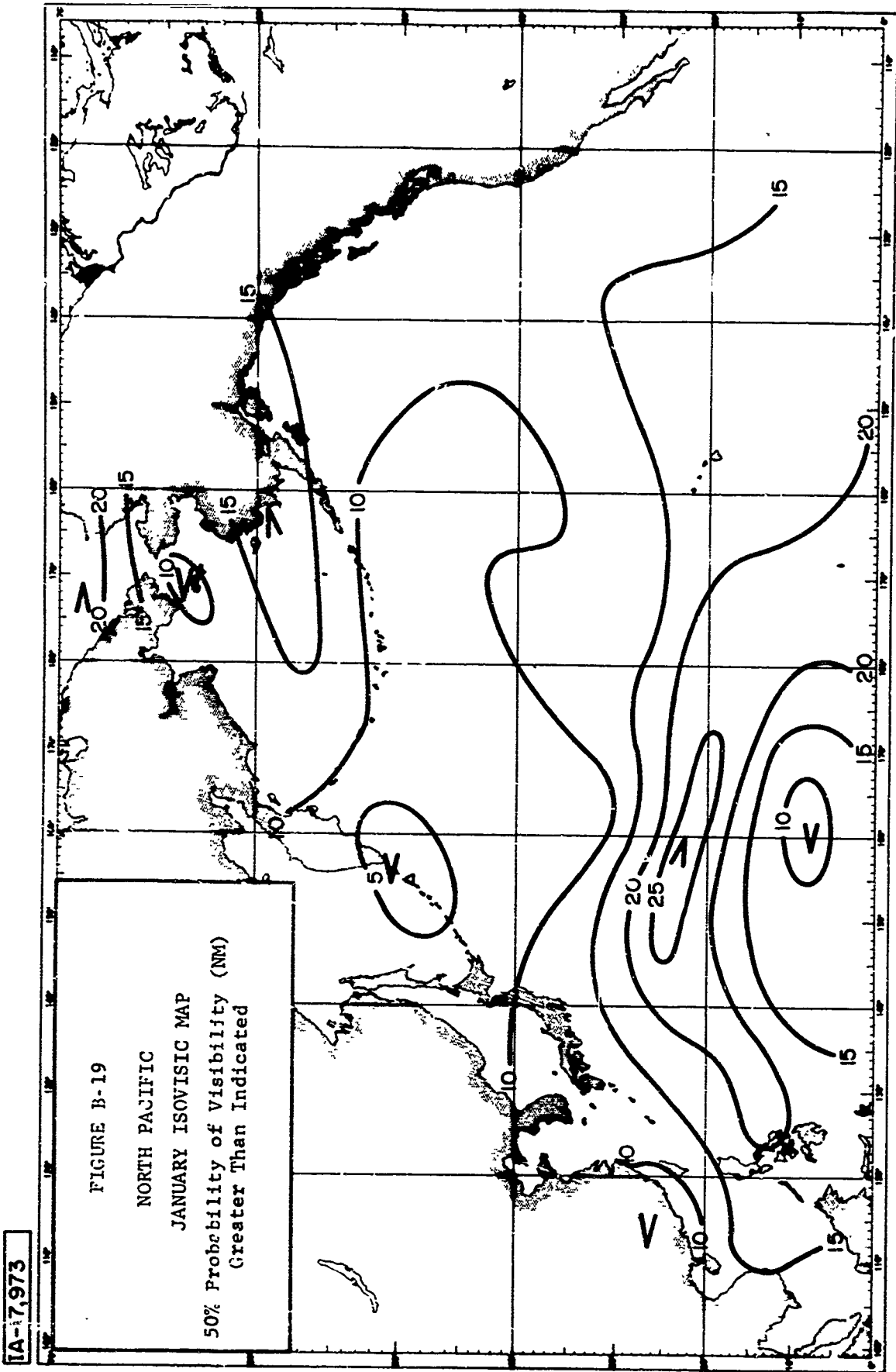


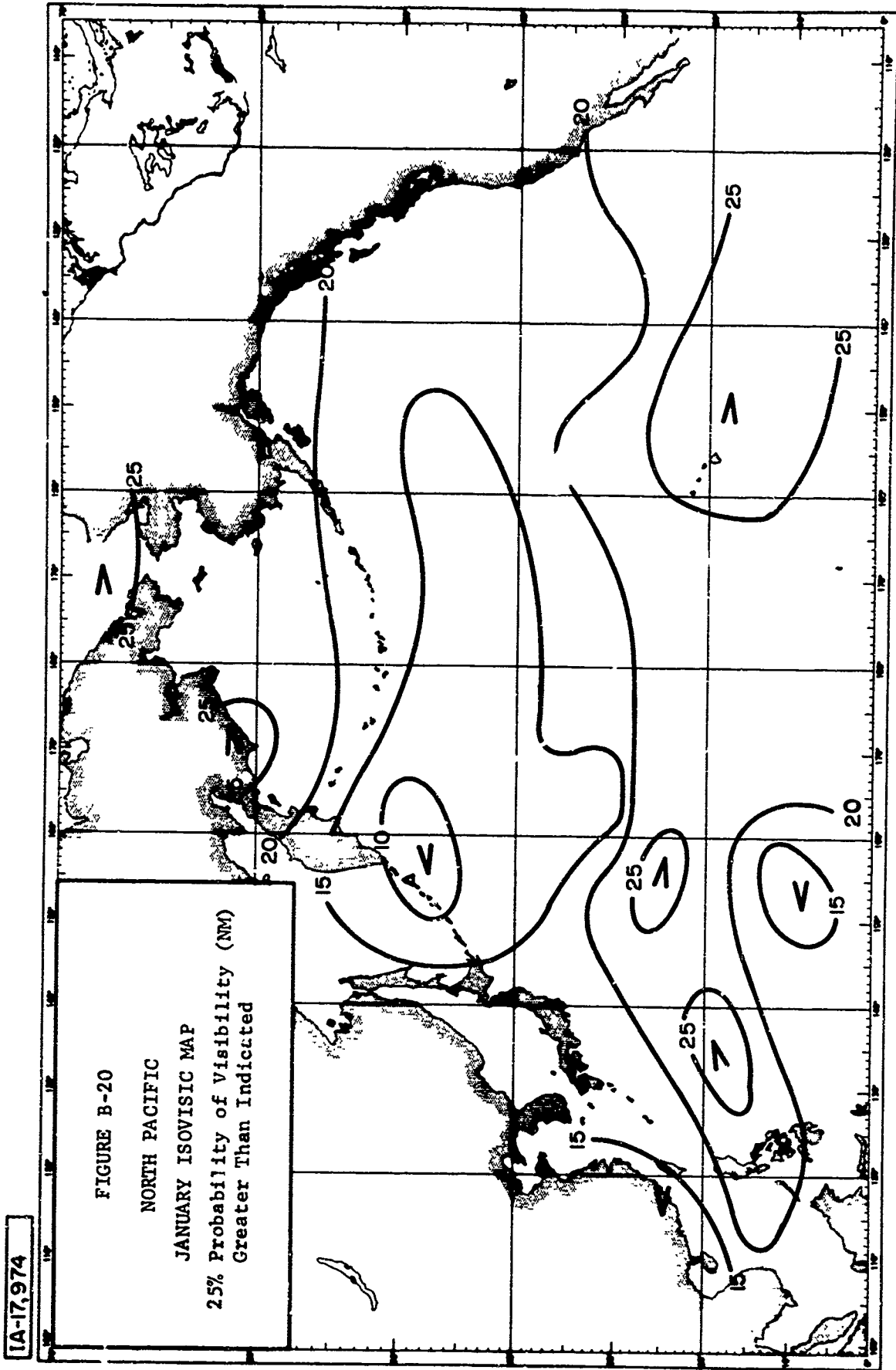
IA-17,971



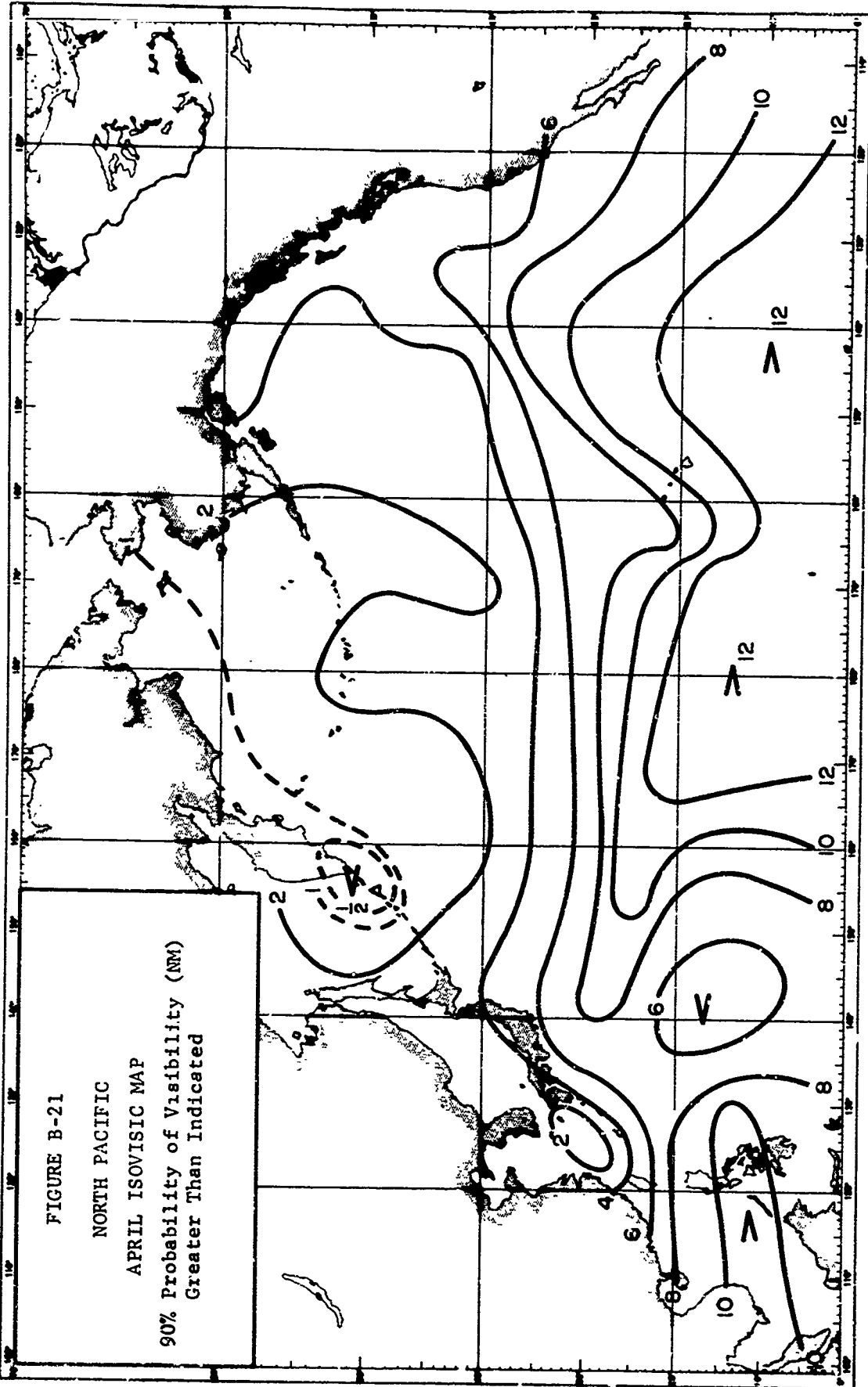


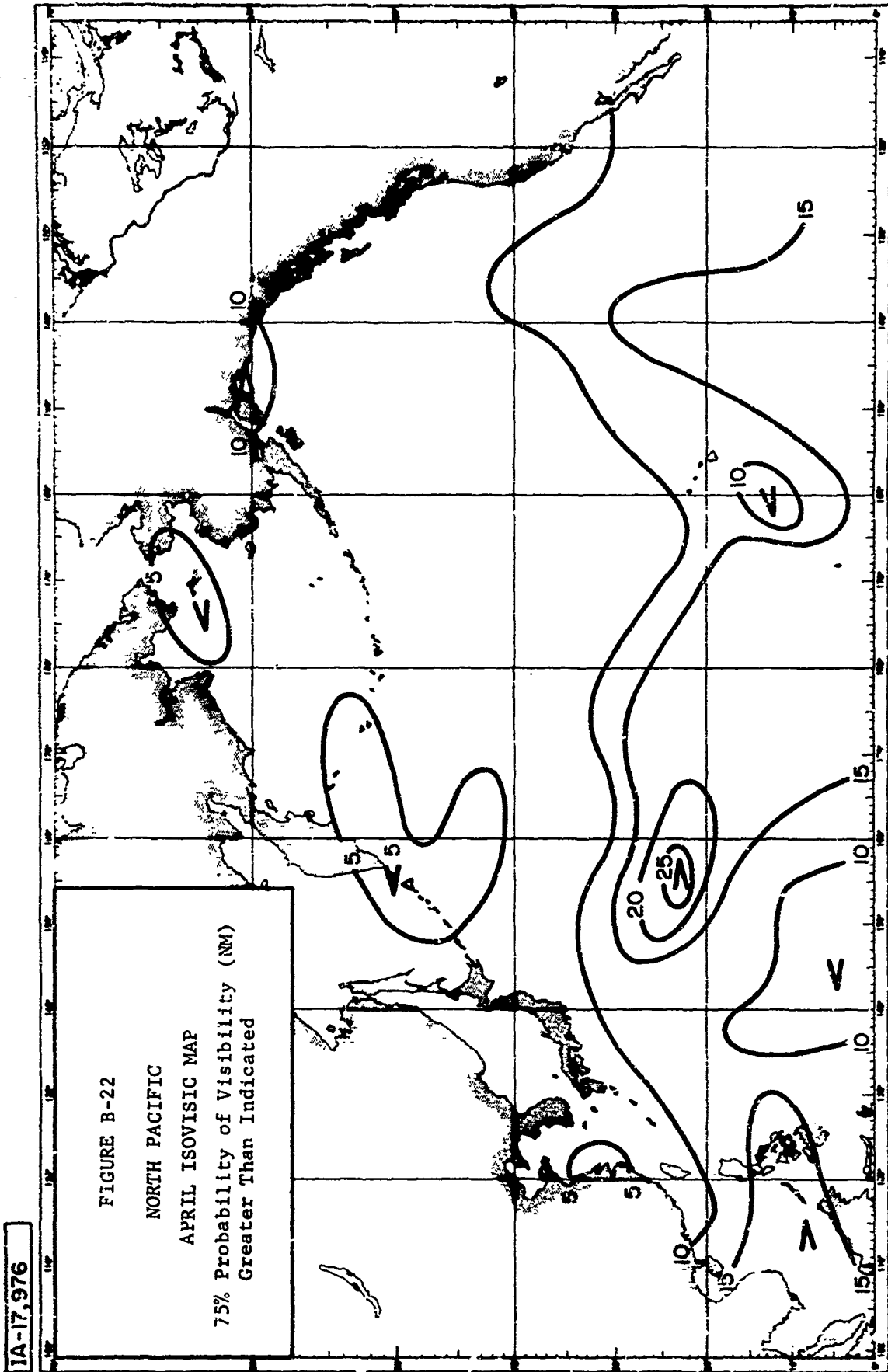
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IA-17,975





IA-17,976

IA-17,977

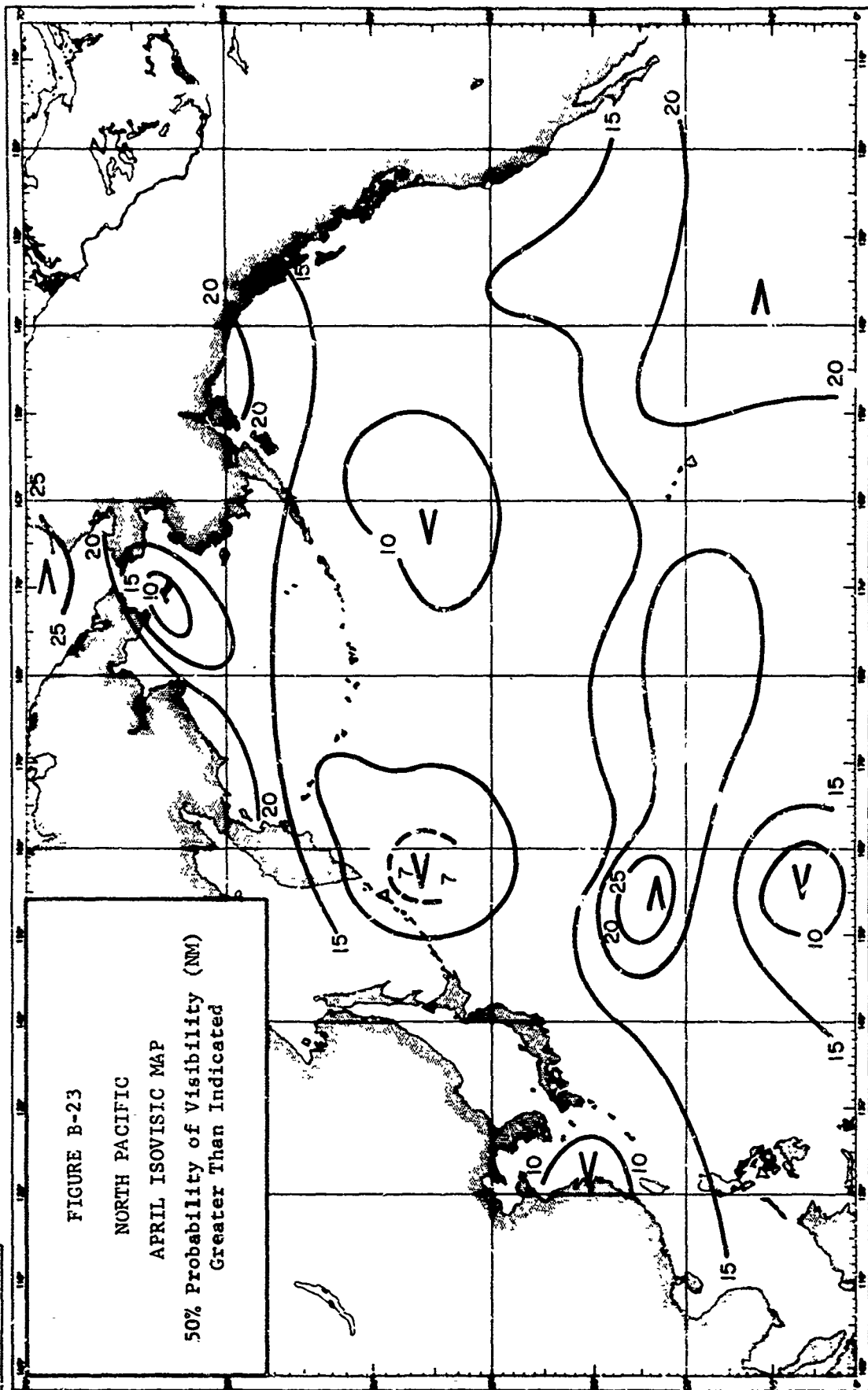
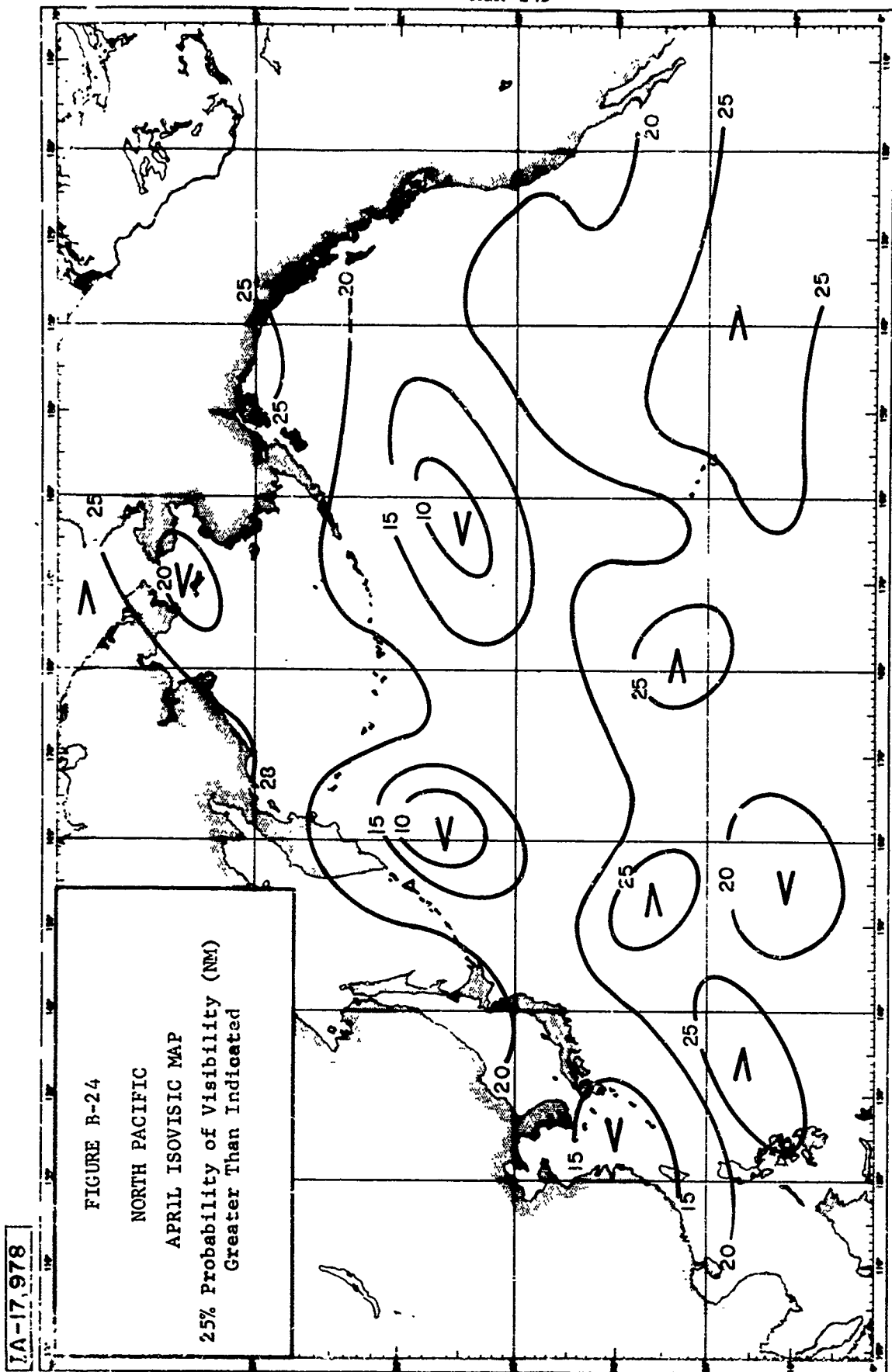
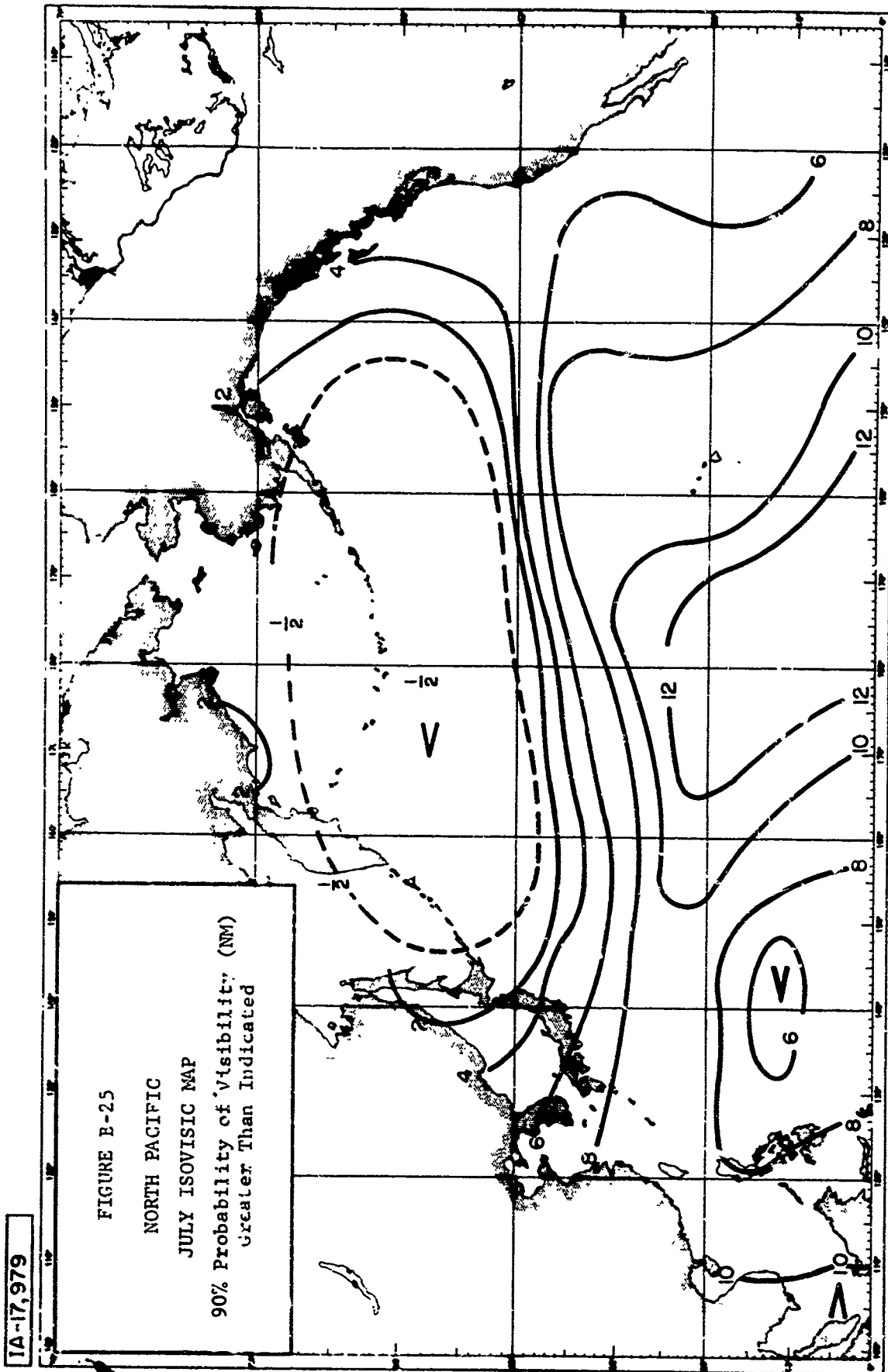
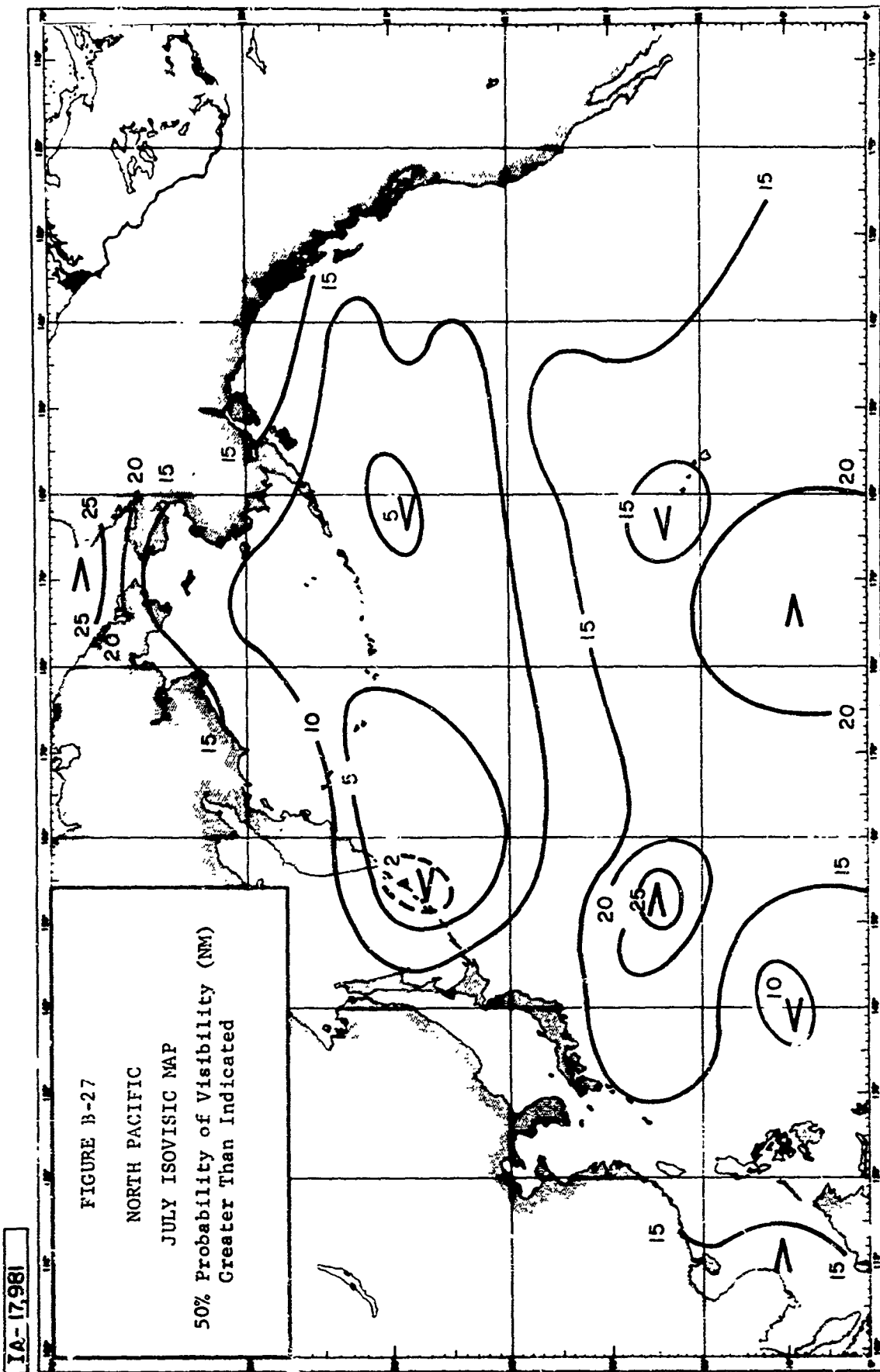


FIGURE B-23
NORTH PACIFIC
APRIL ISOVISIC MAP
50% Probability of Visibility (NM)
Greater Than Indicated

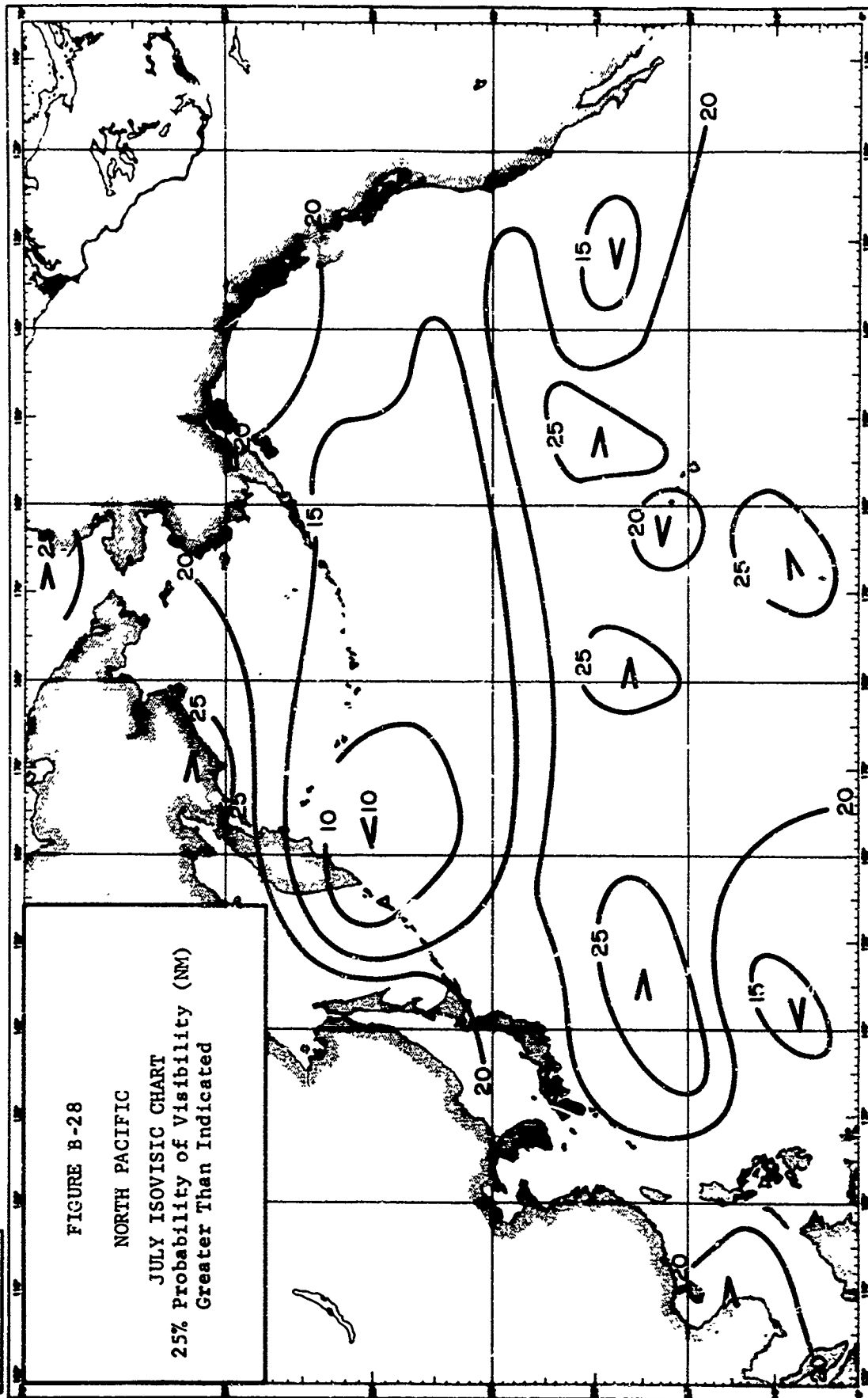


IA-17,978



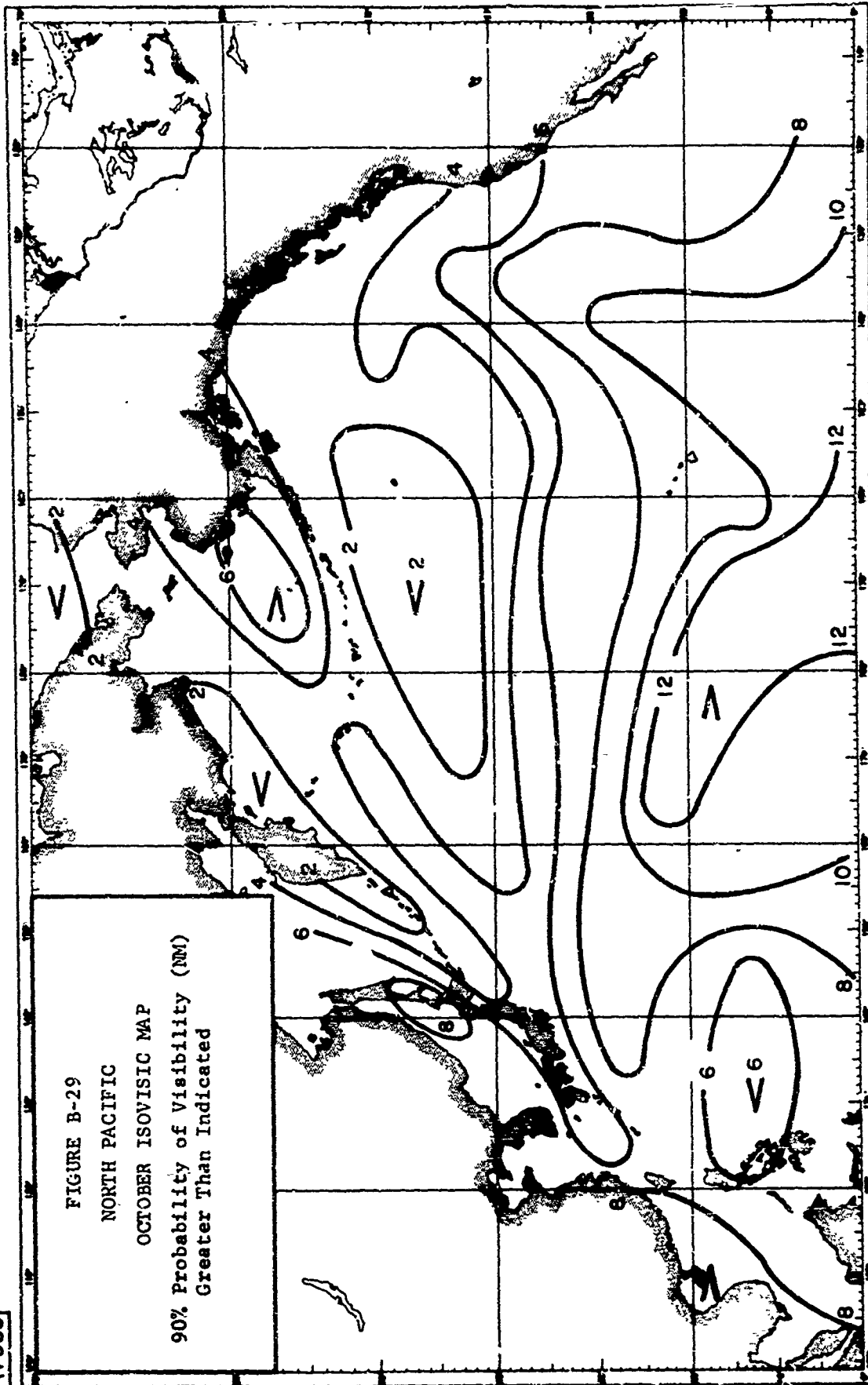


IA-17,981

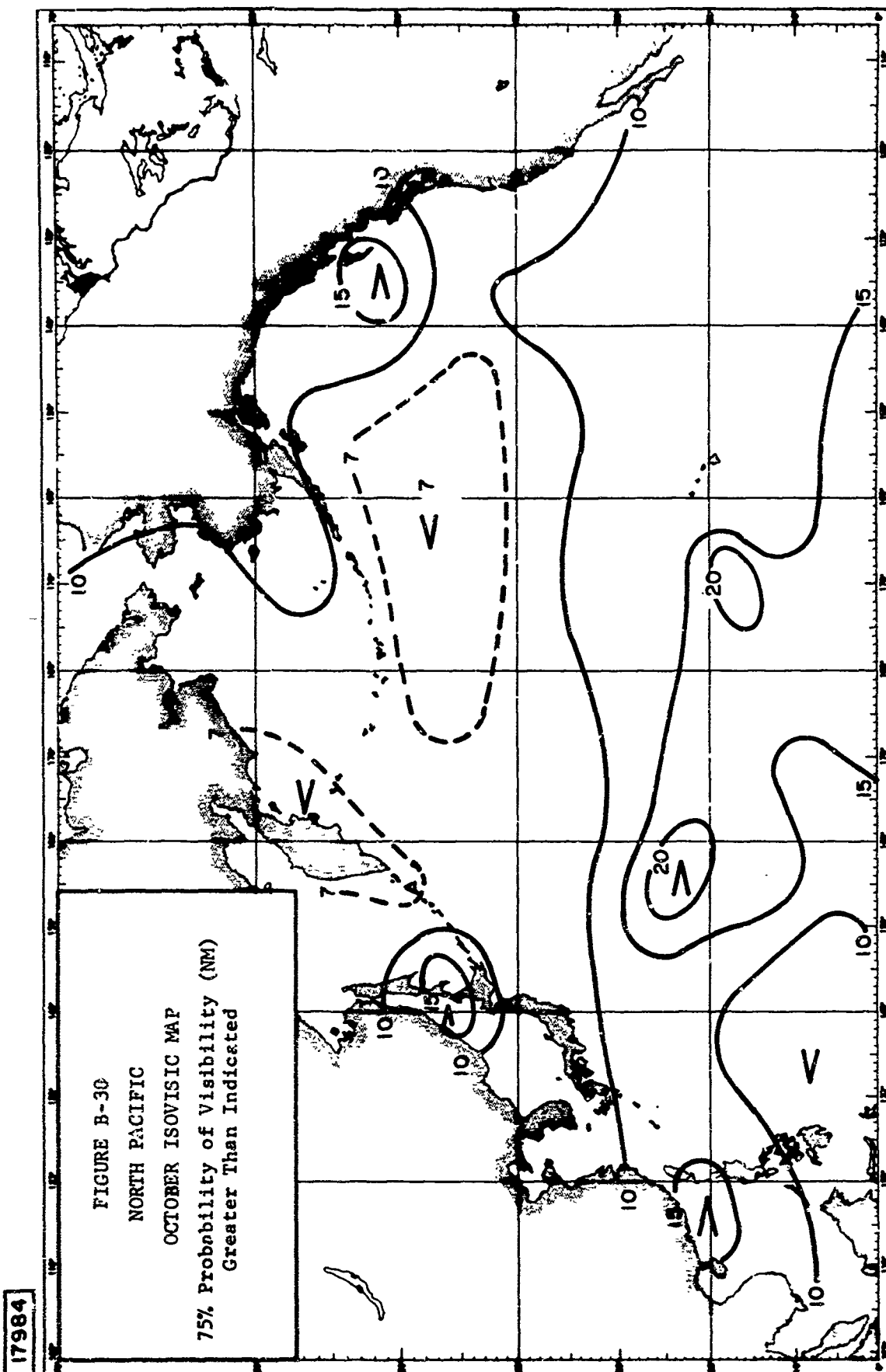


IA-17,982

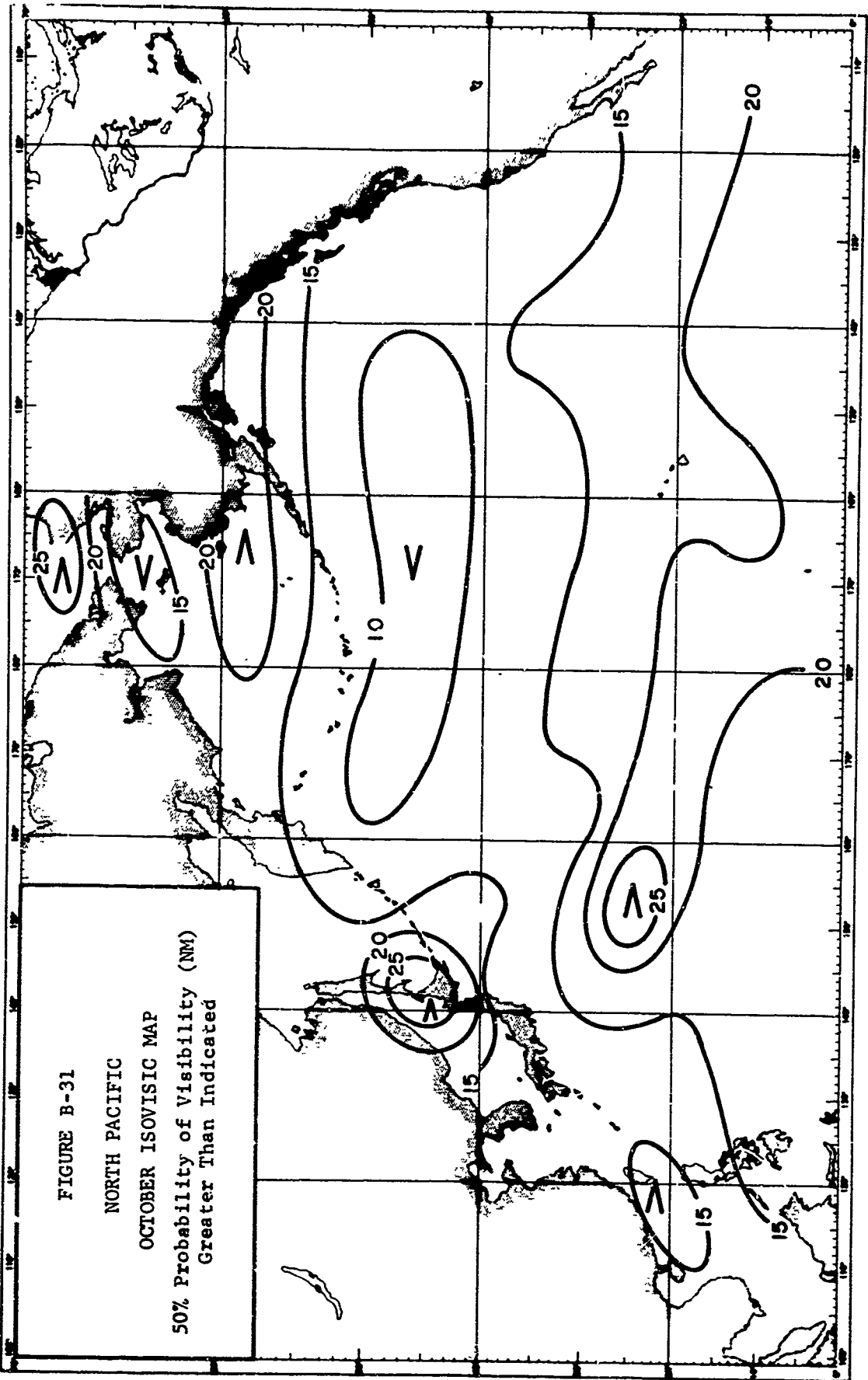
FIGURE B-28
NORTH PACIFIC
JULY ISOVISIC CHART
25% Probability of Visibility (NM)
Greater Than Indicated



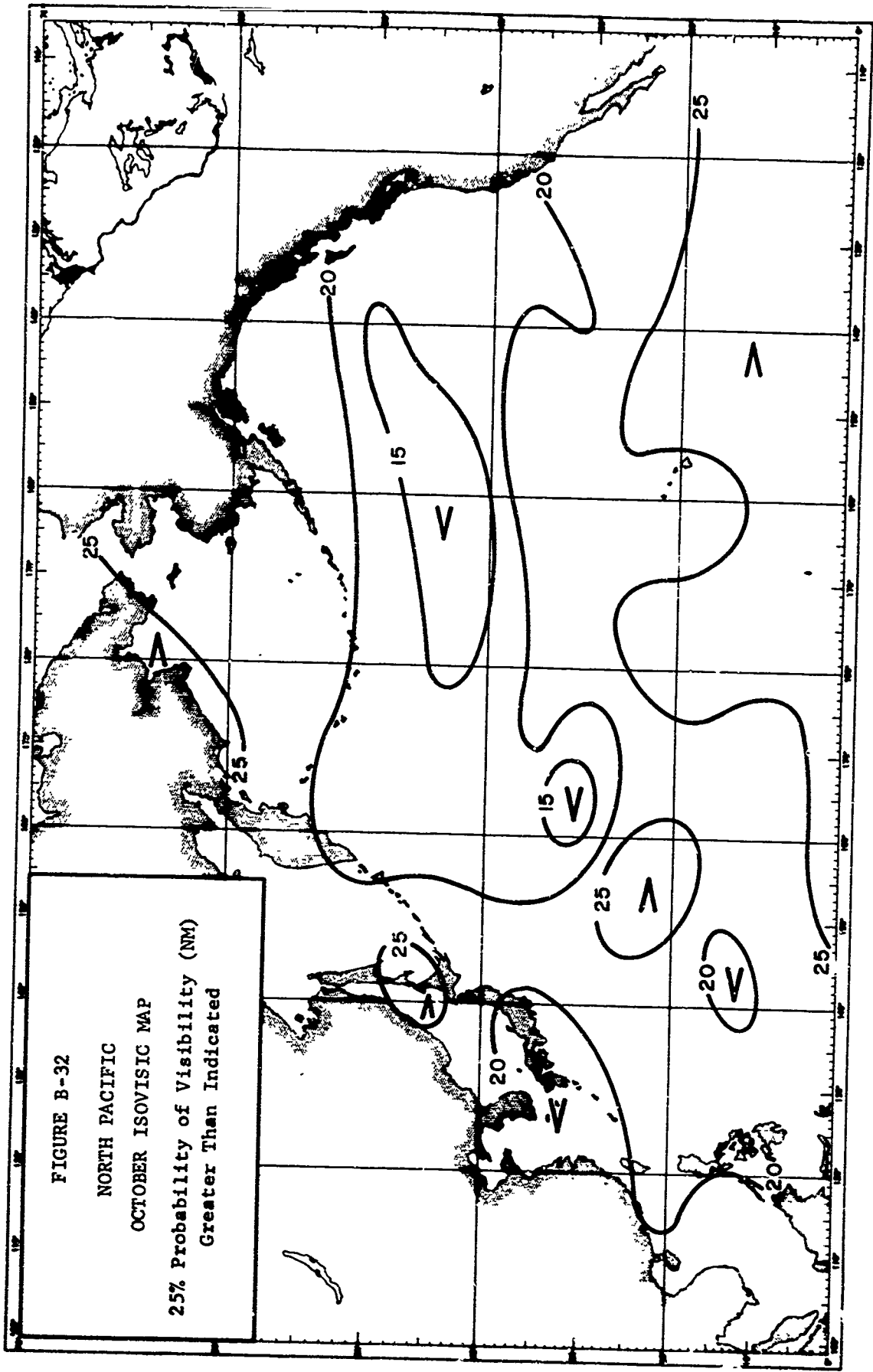
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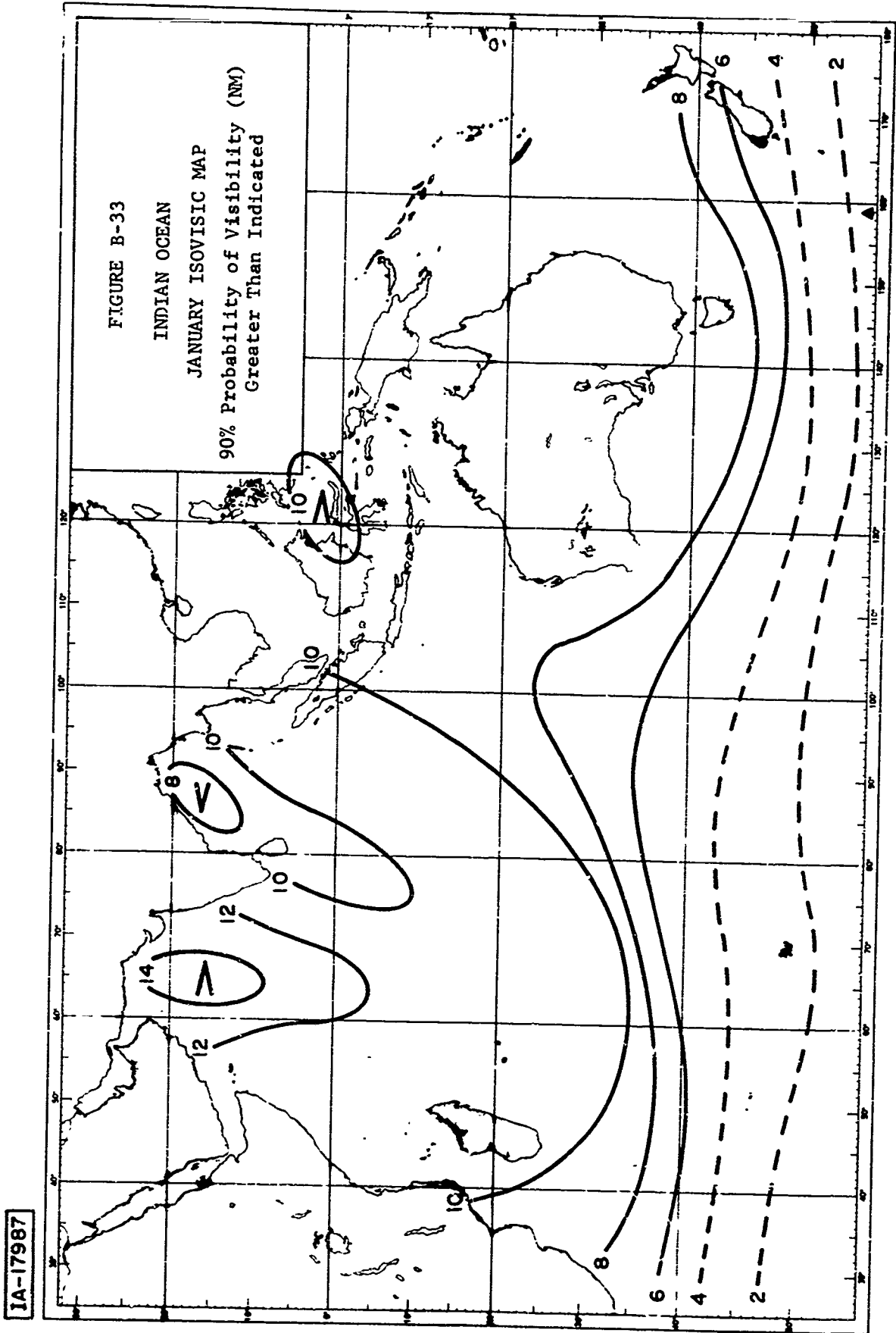


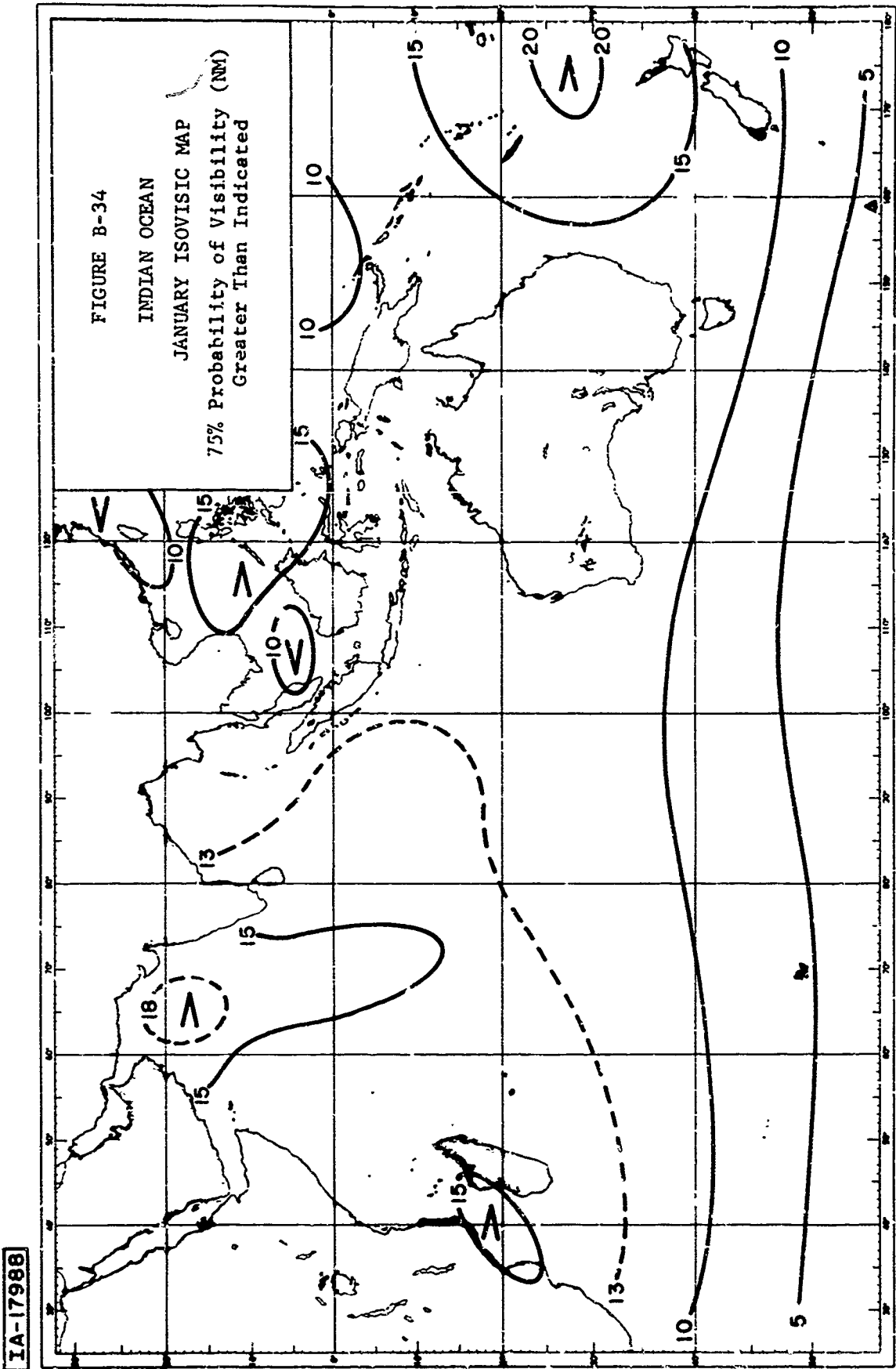
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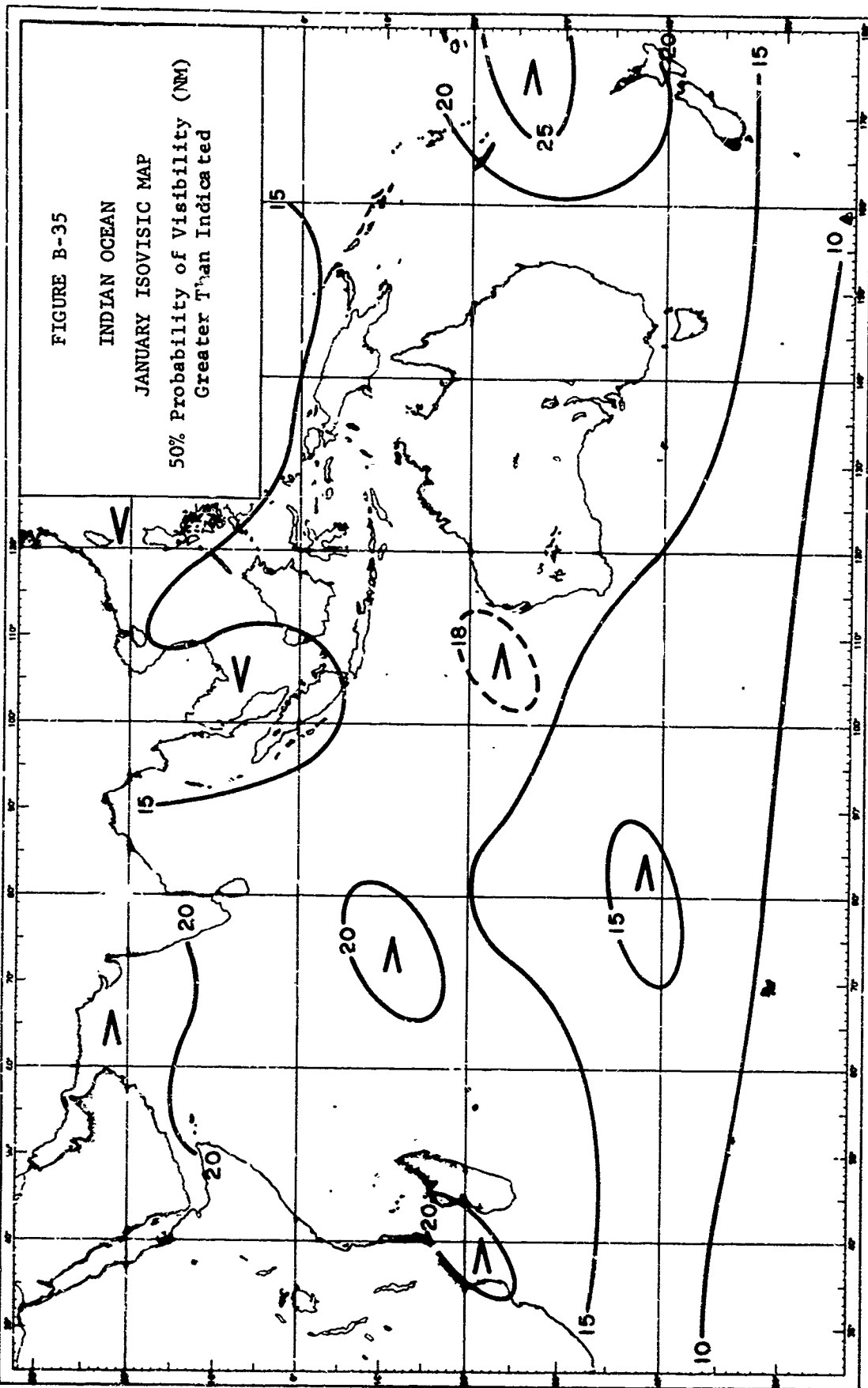
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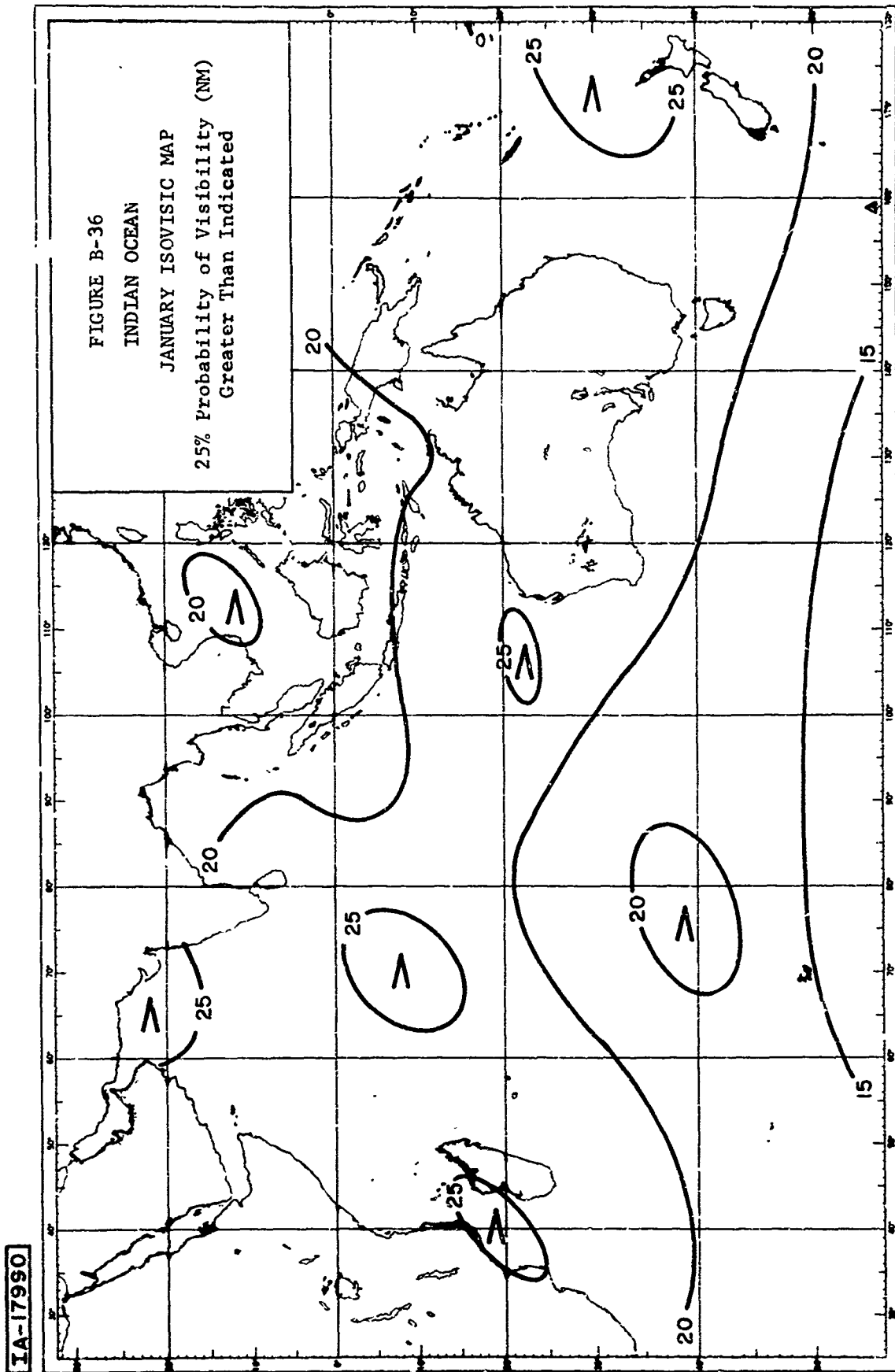


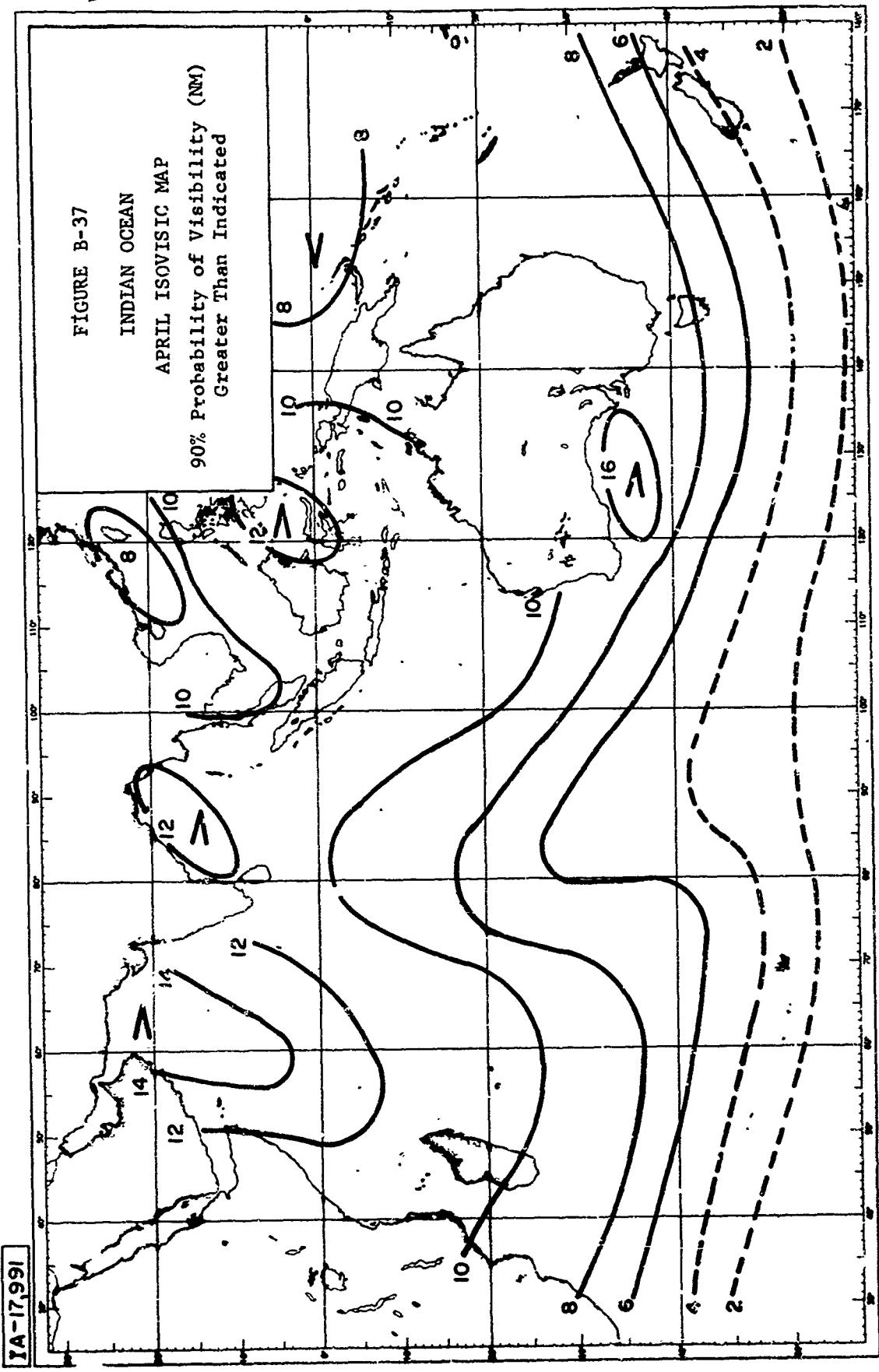


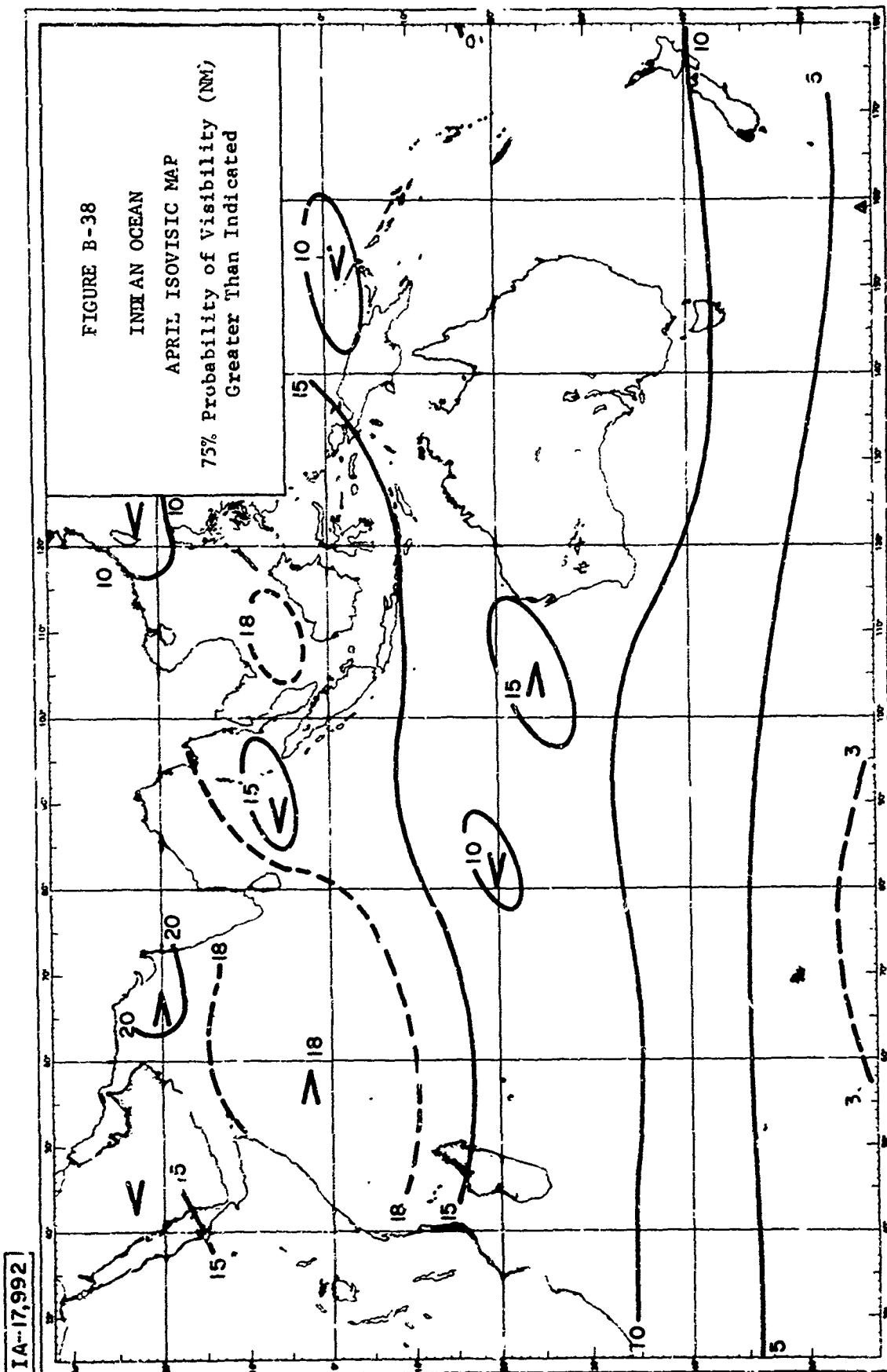


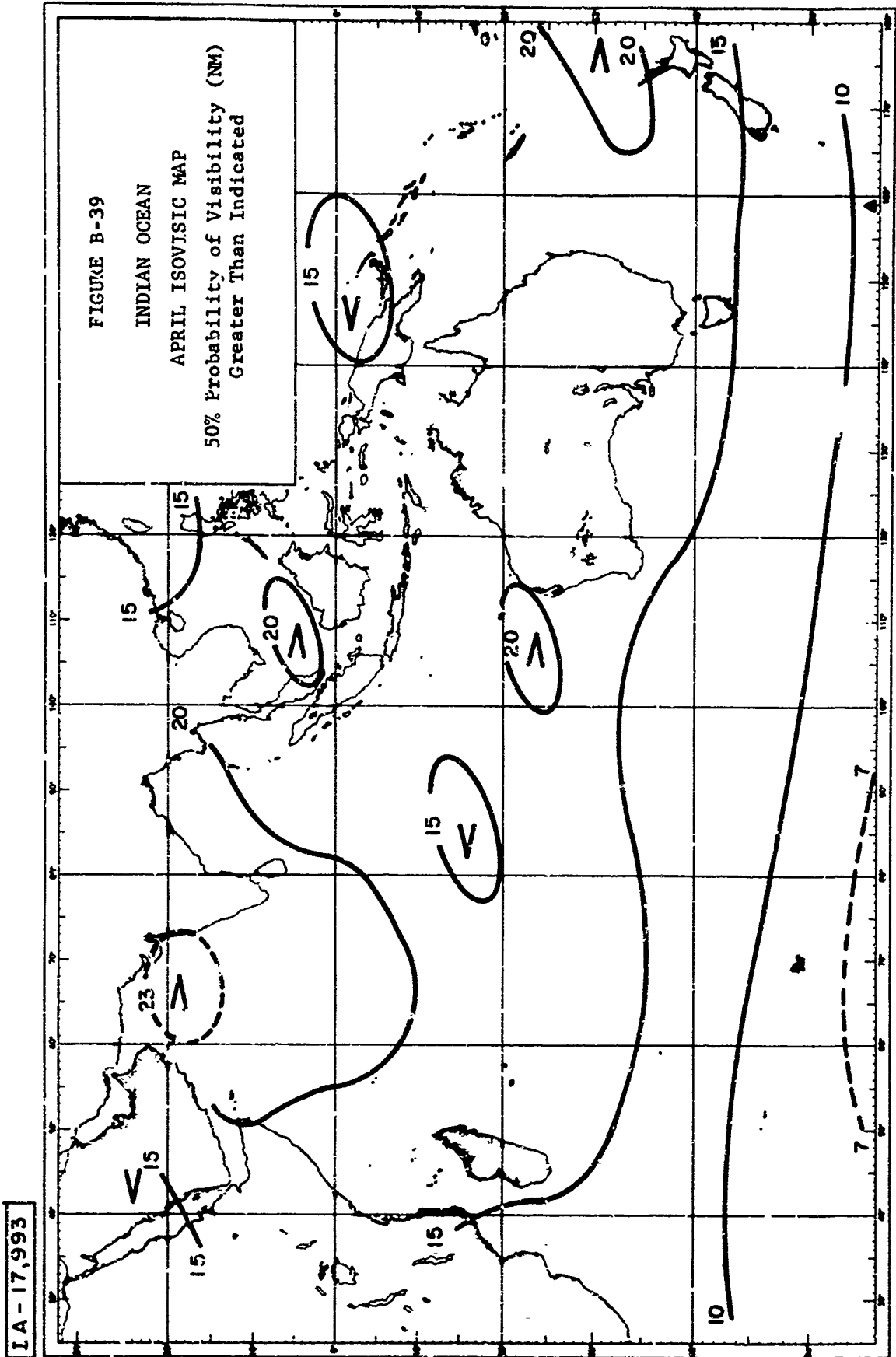
IA-17988

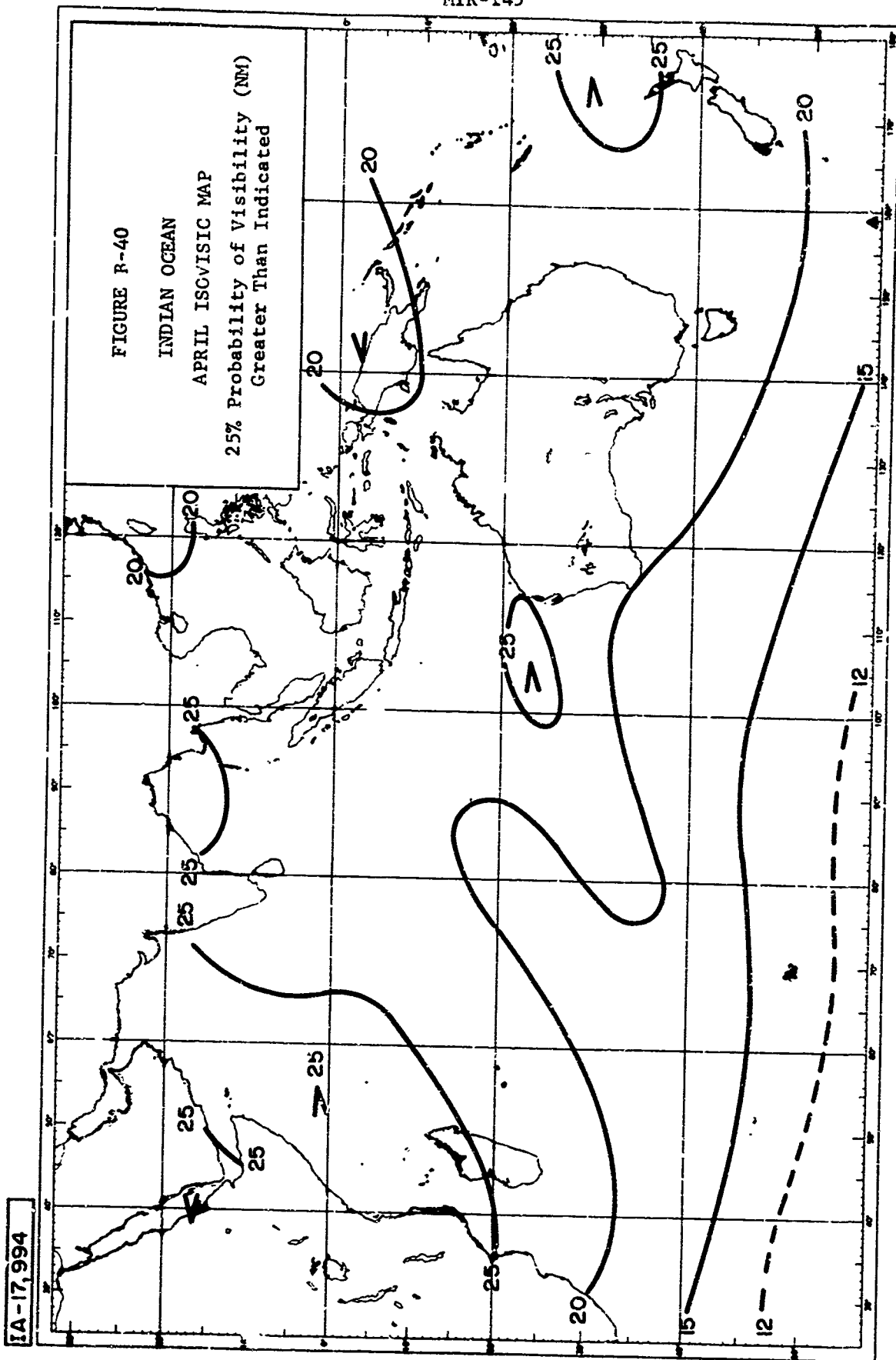


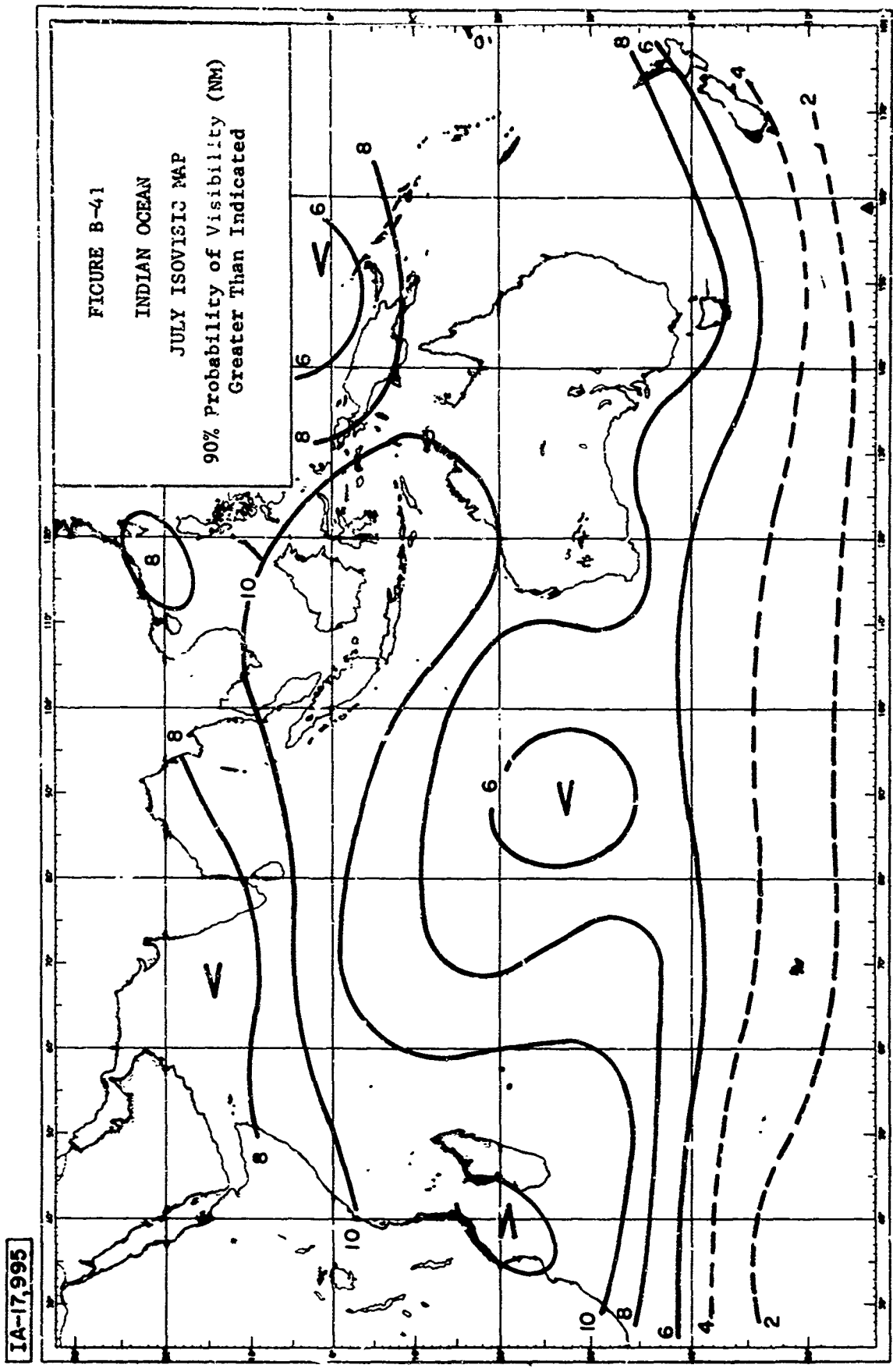


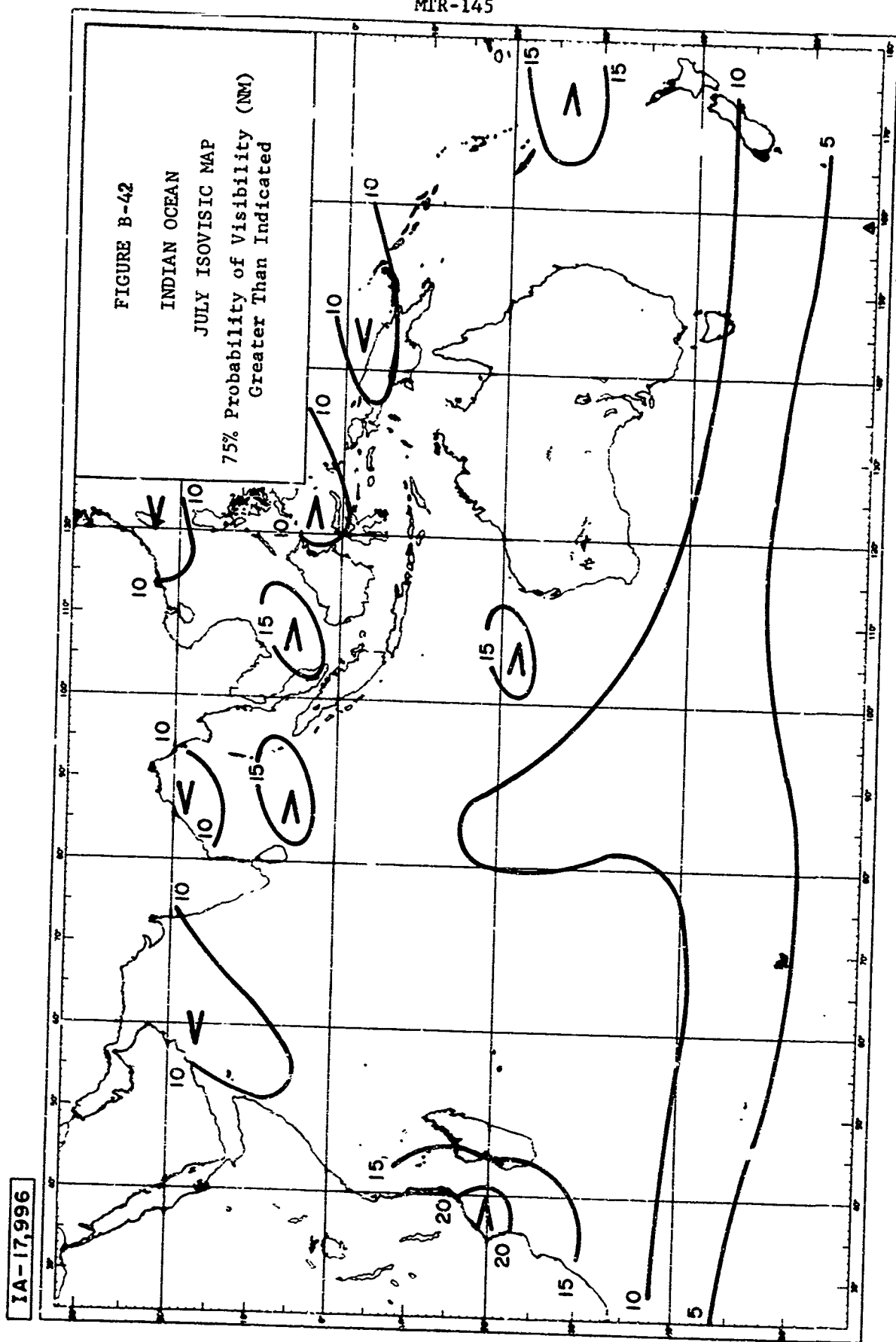


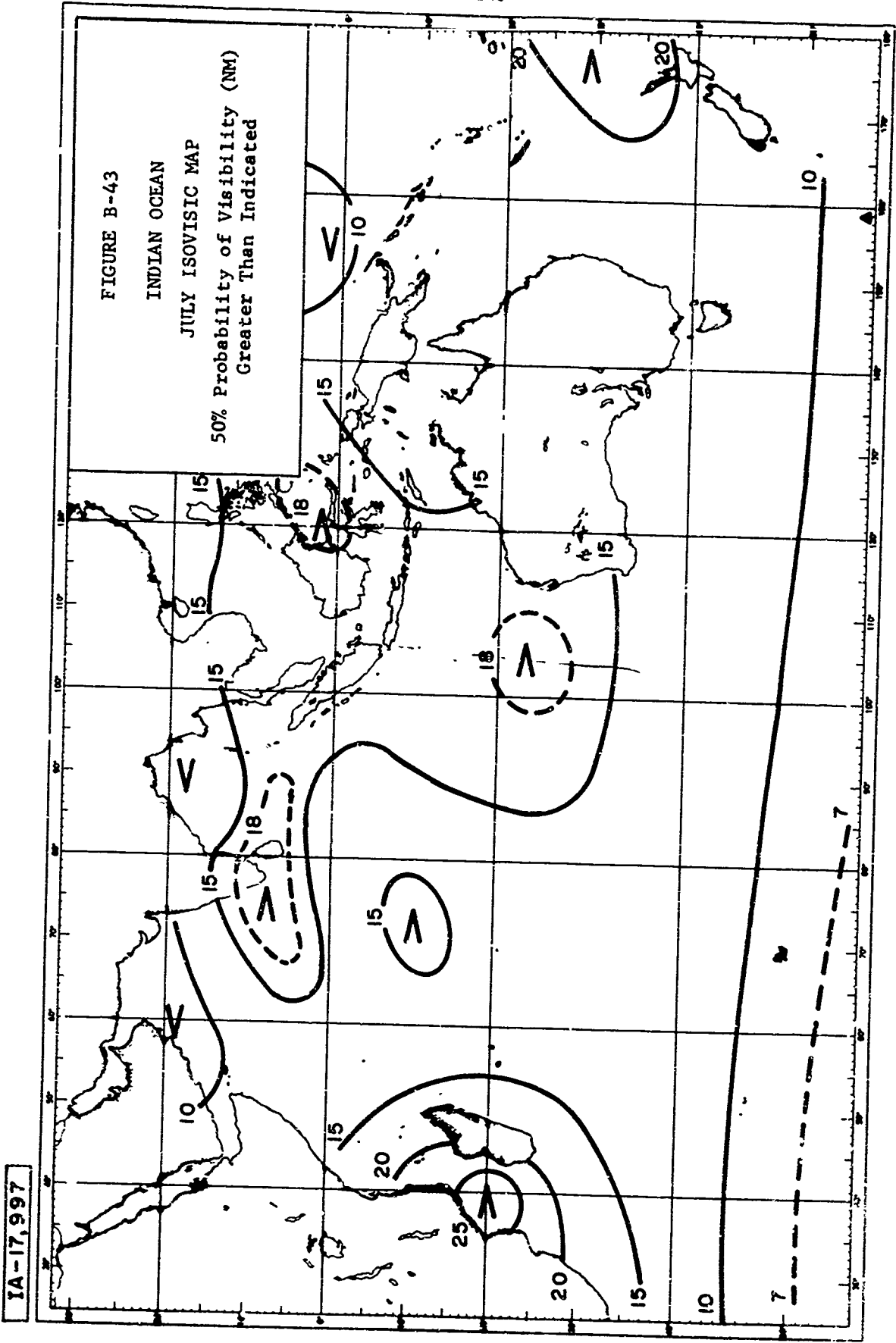


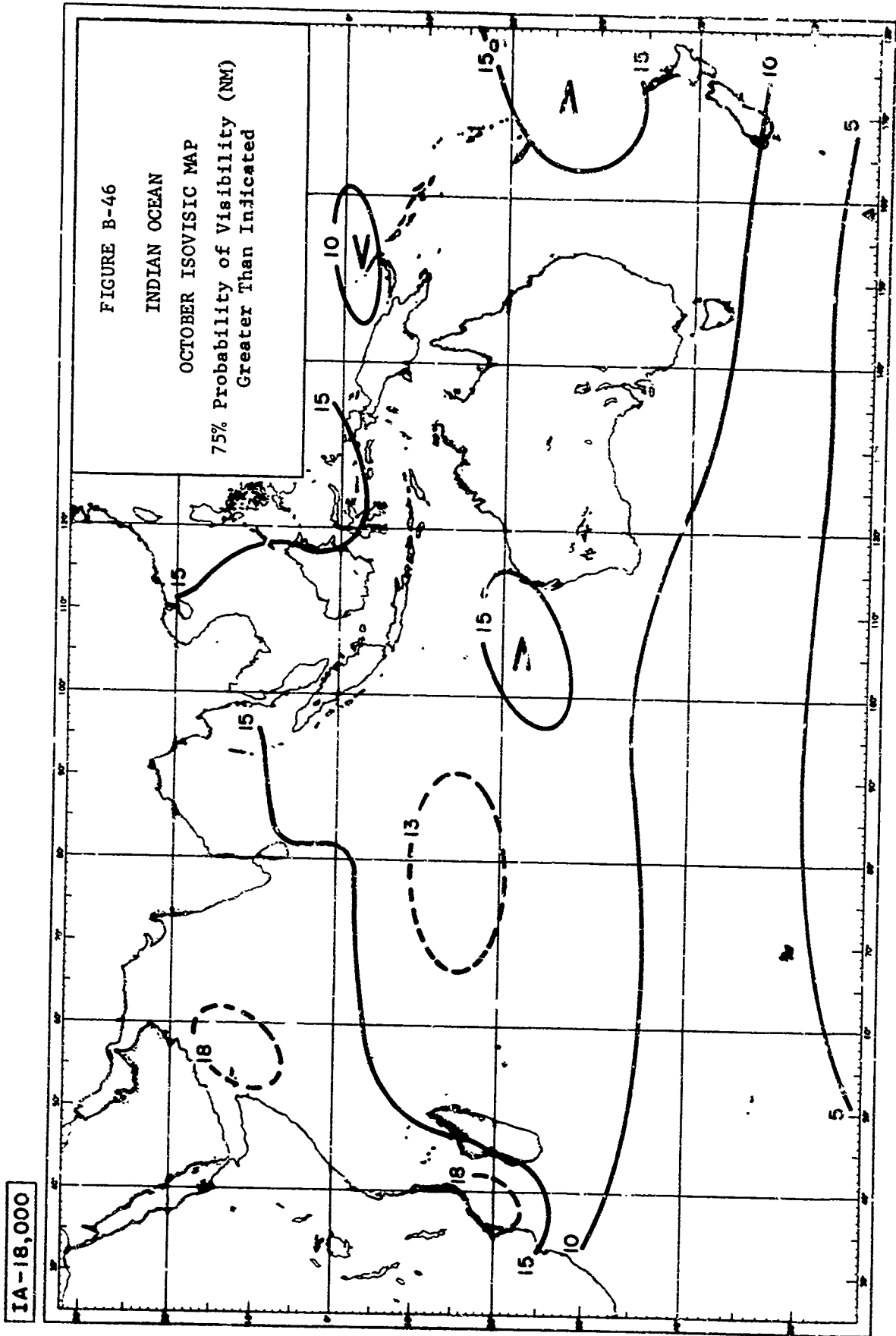


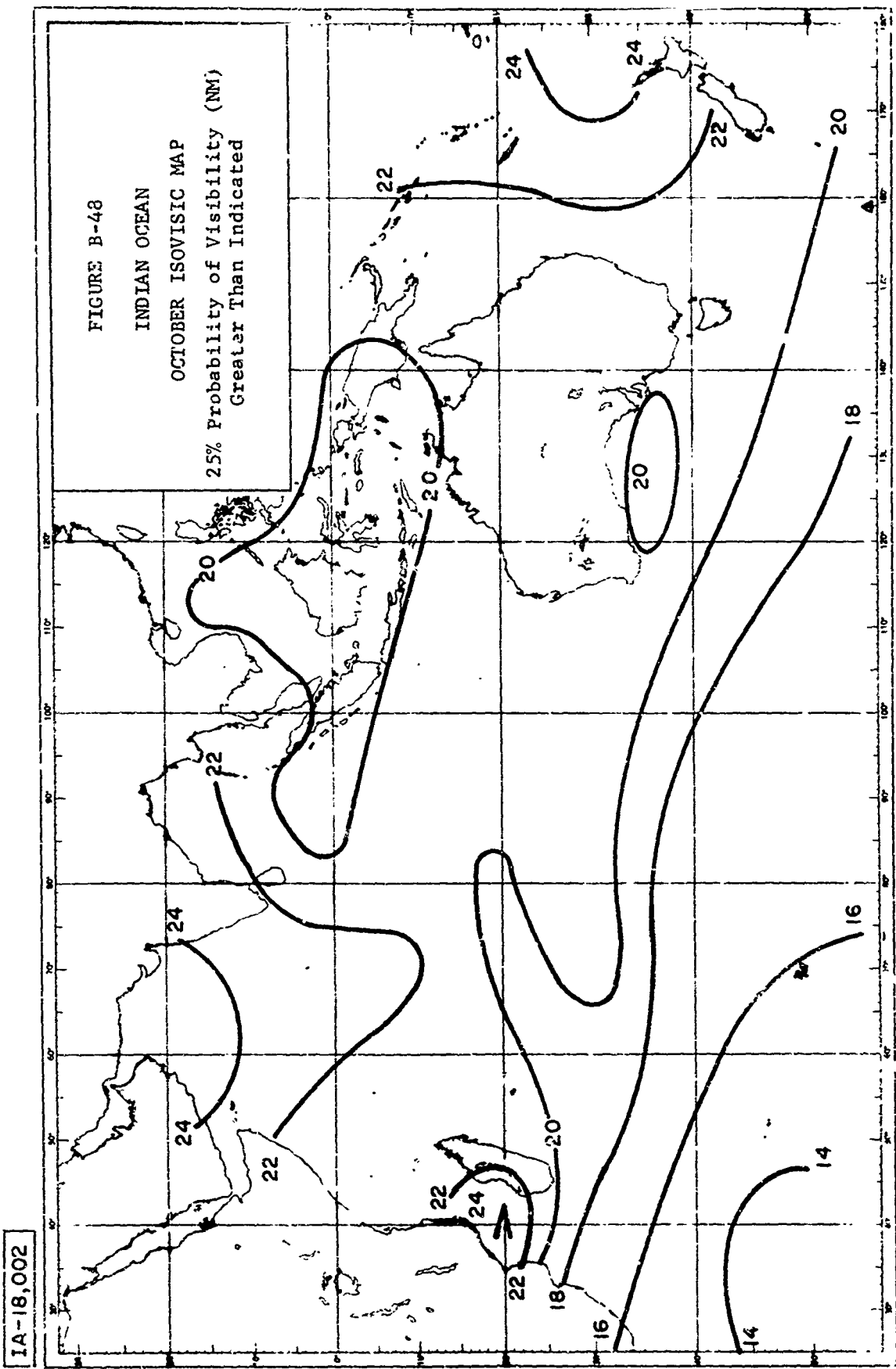








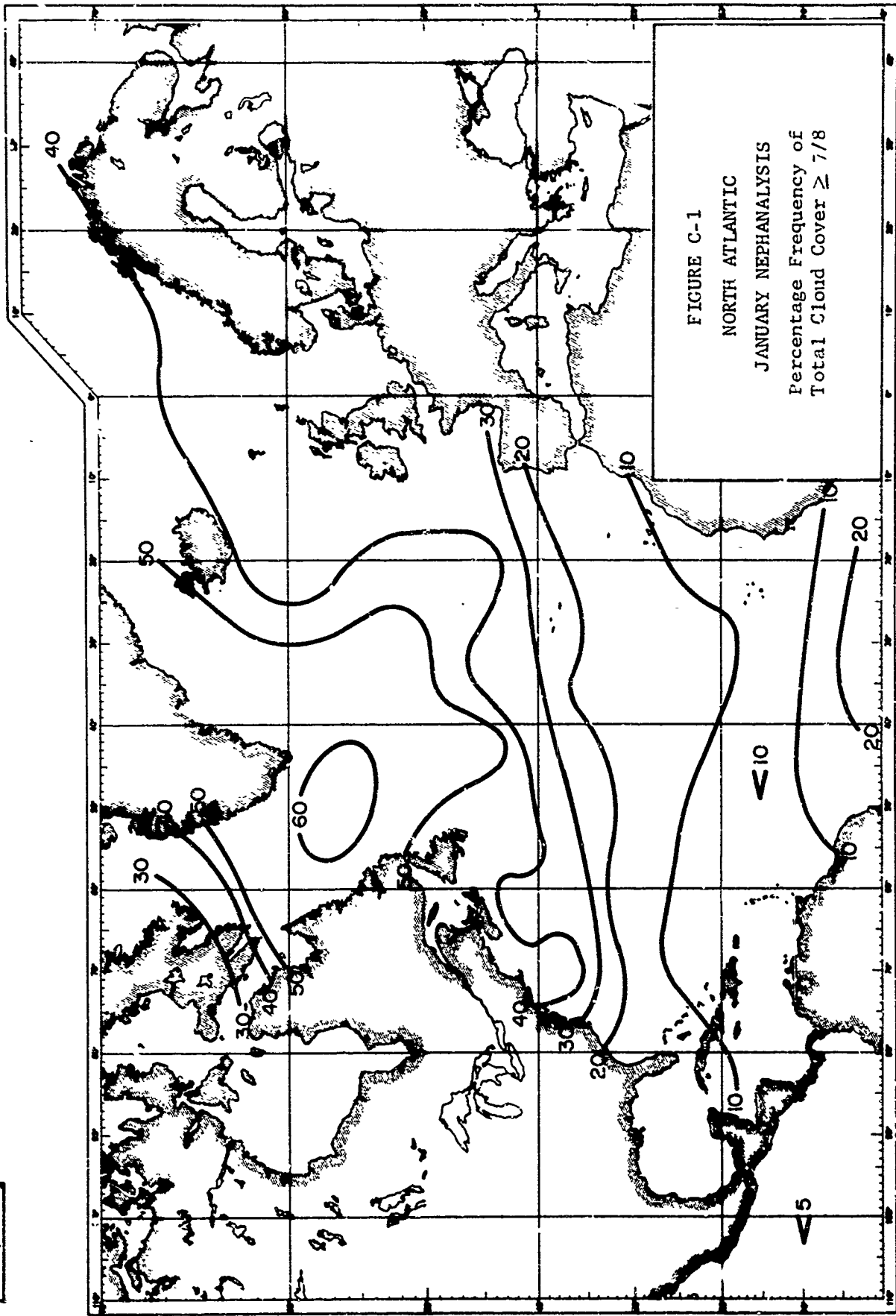


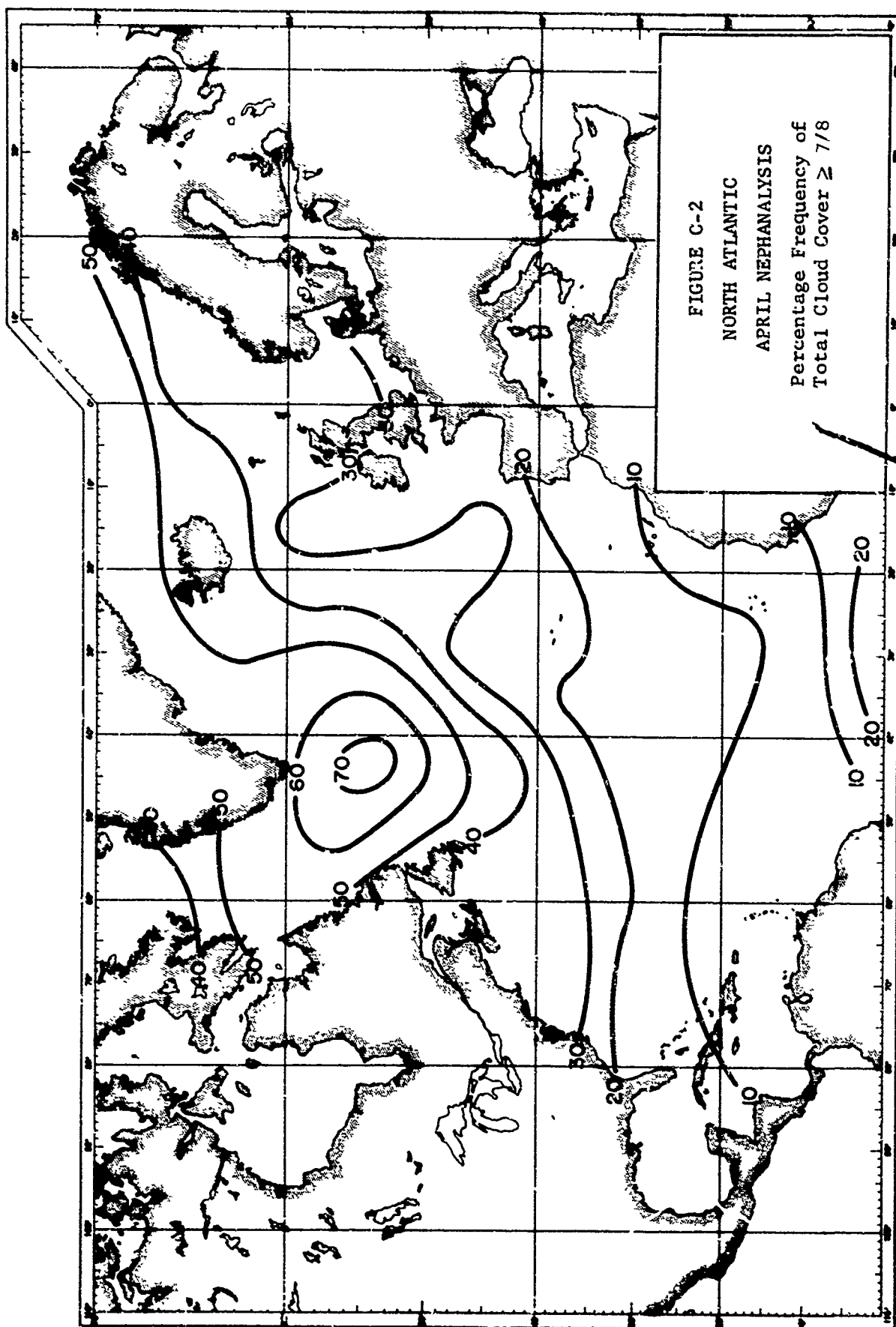


APPENDIX C

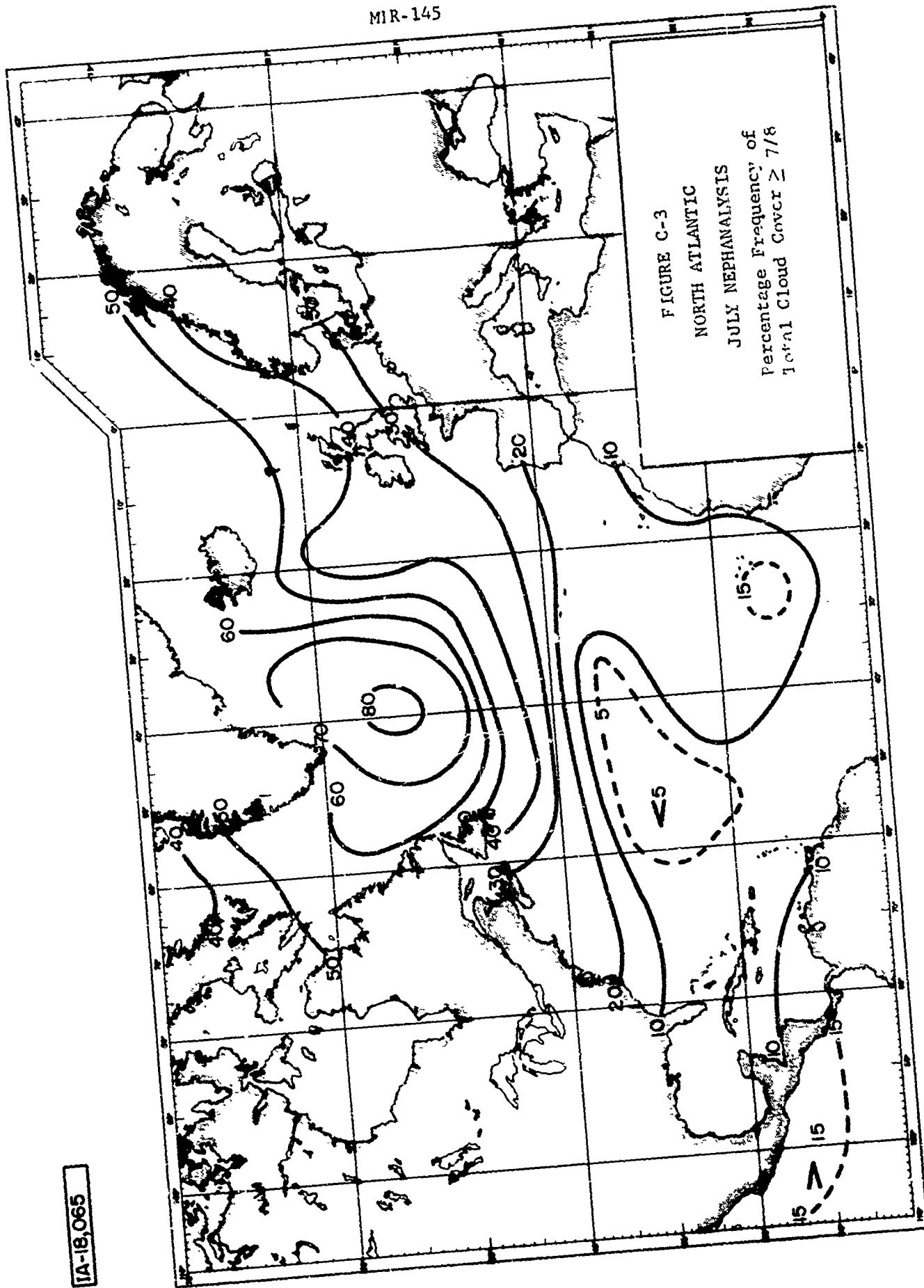
NEPHANALYSIS - PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF TOT. CLOUD COVER $\geq 7/8$

LA-18,063

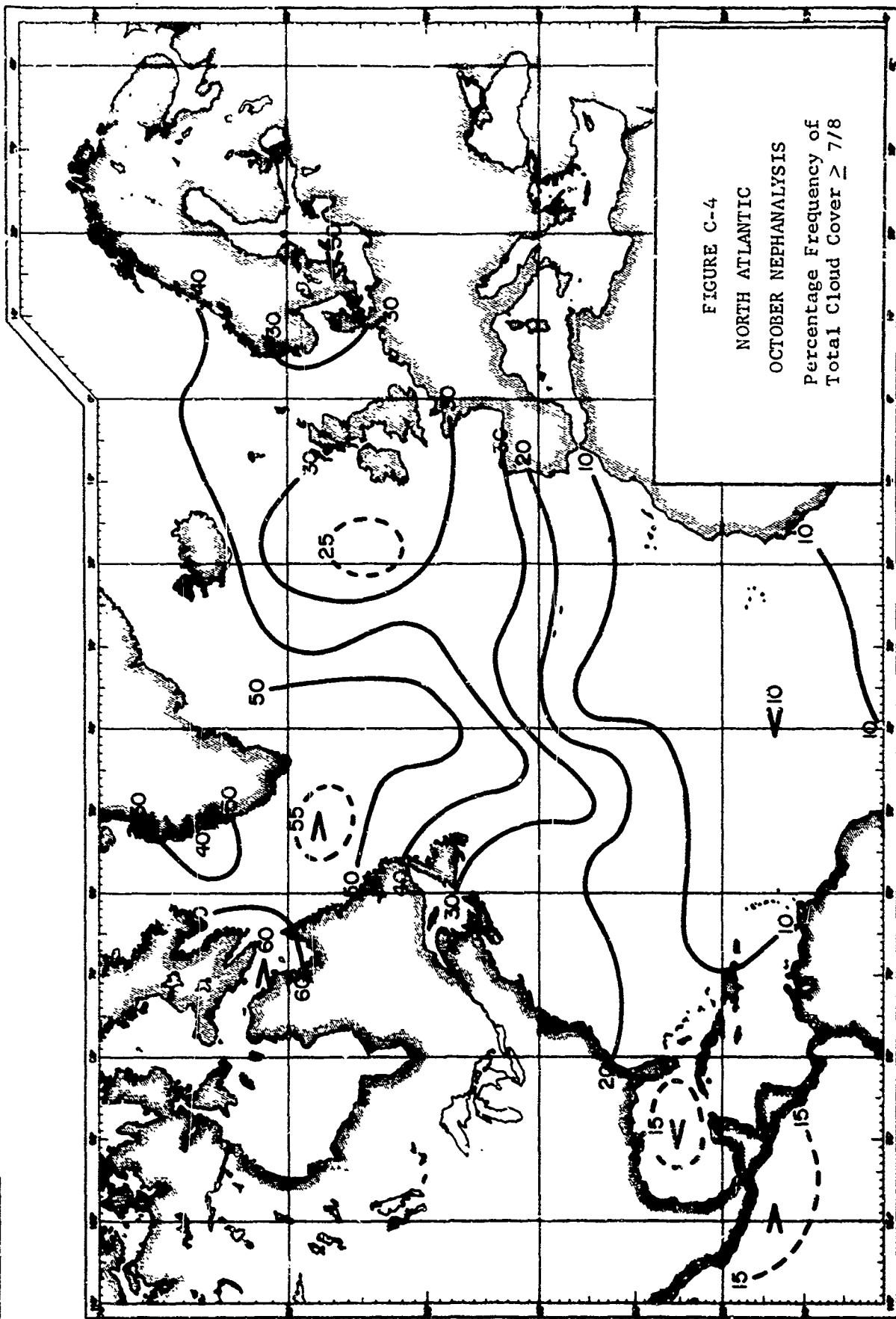


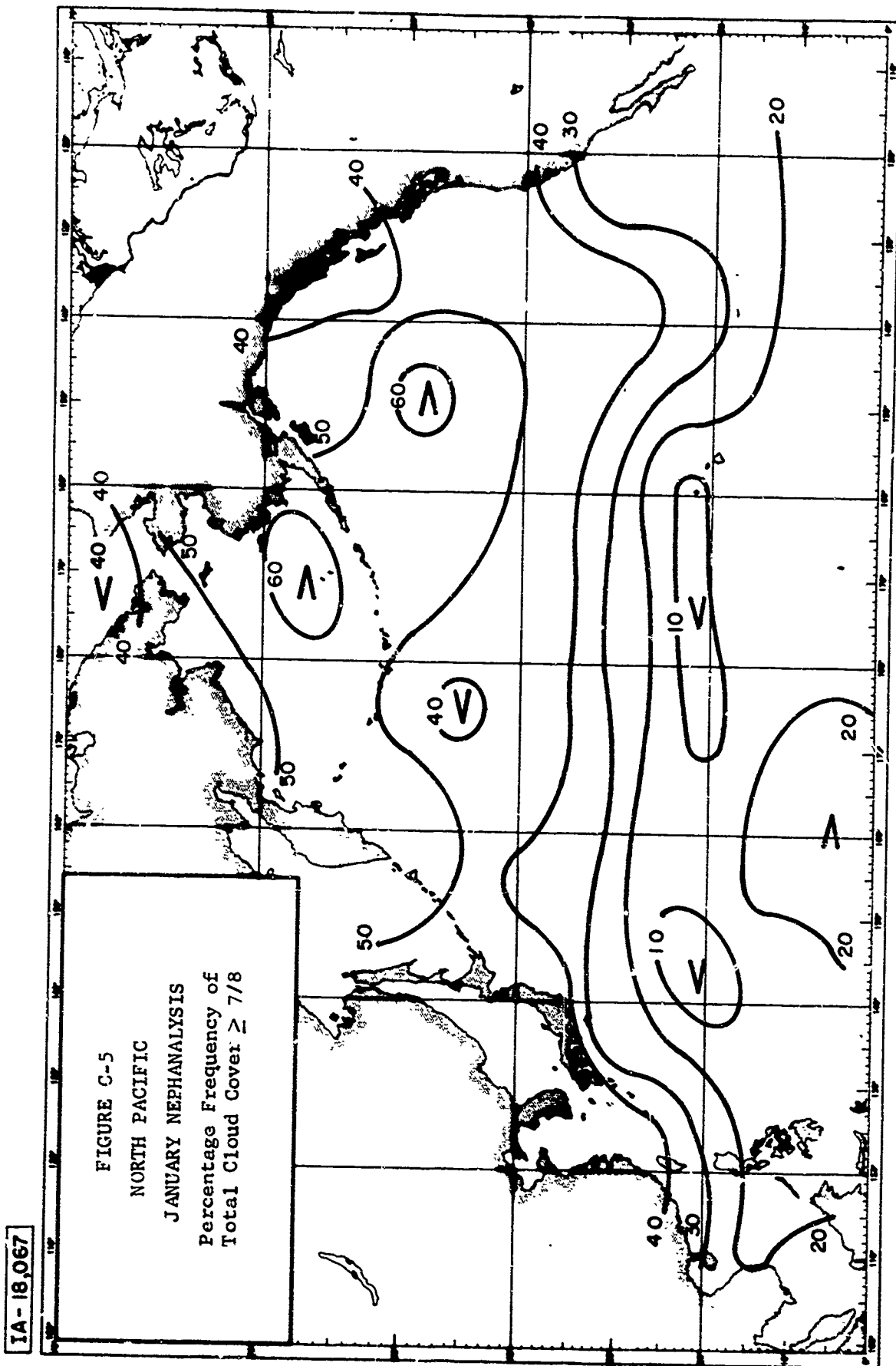


IA, IB, 064

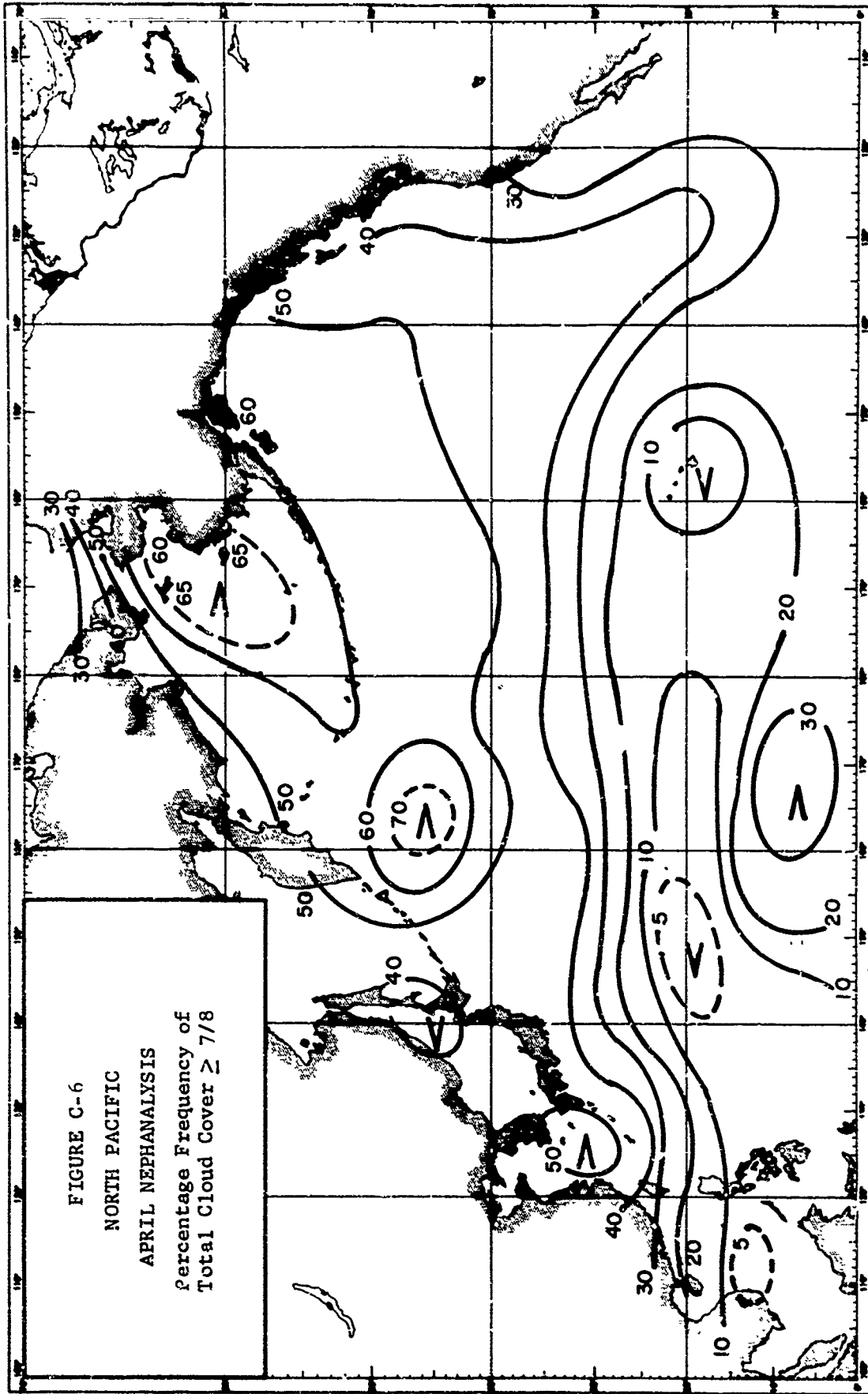


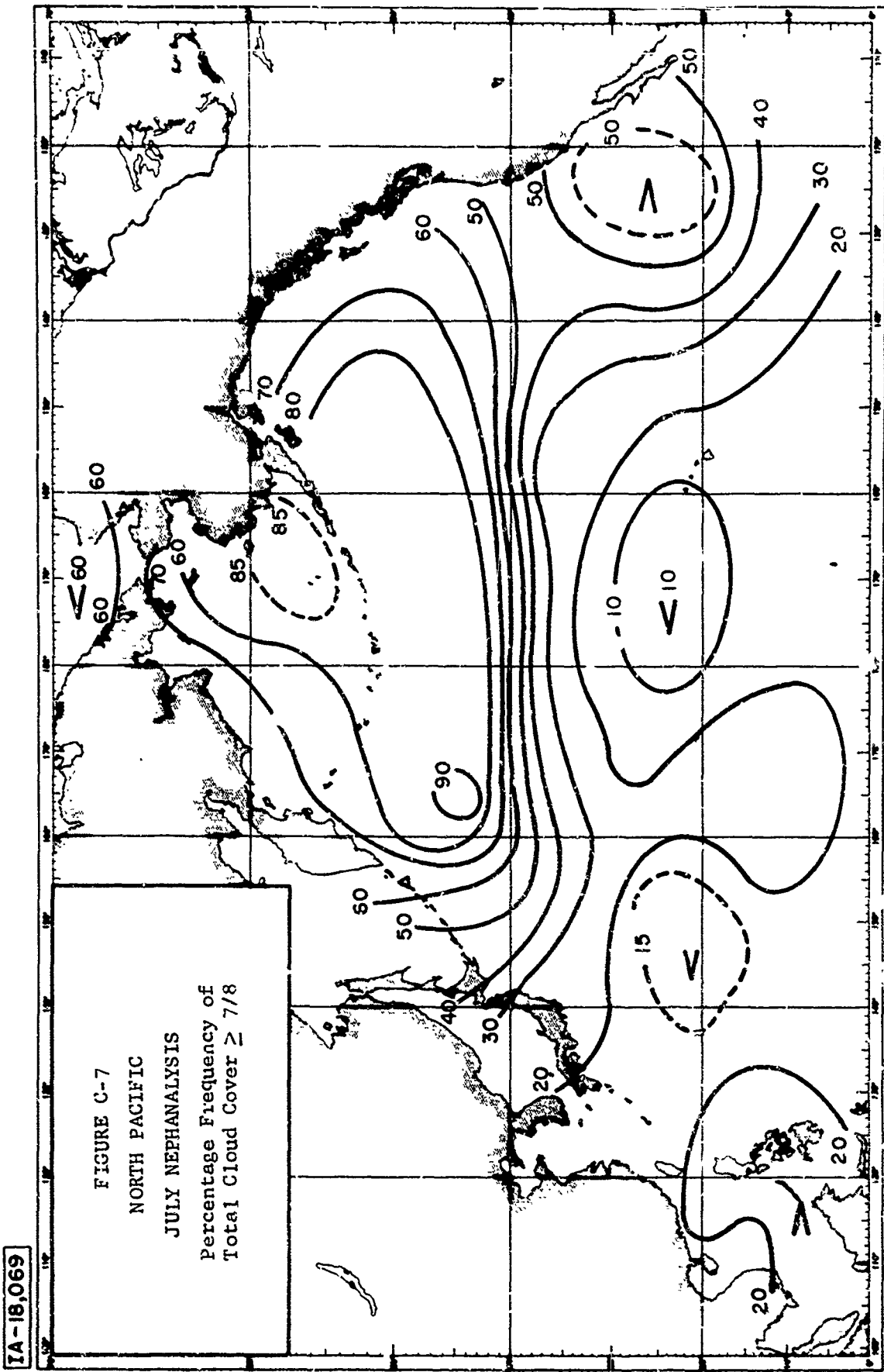
IA-18.066



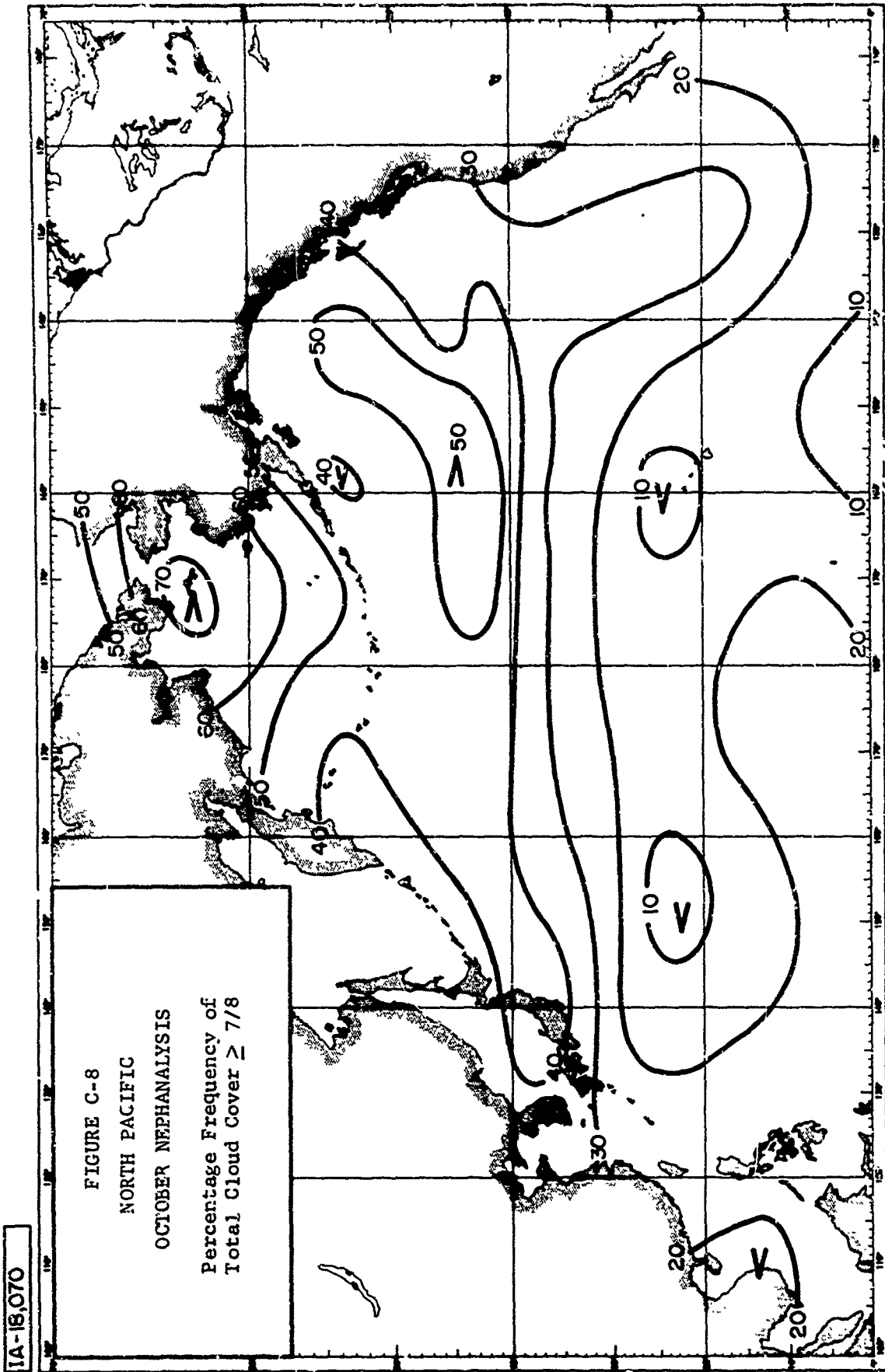


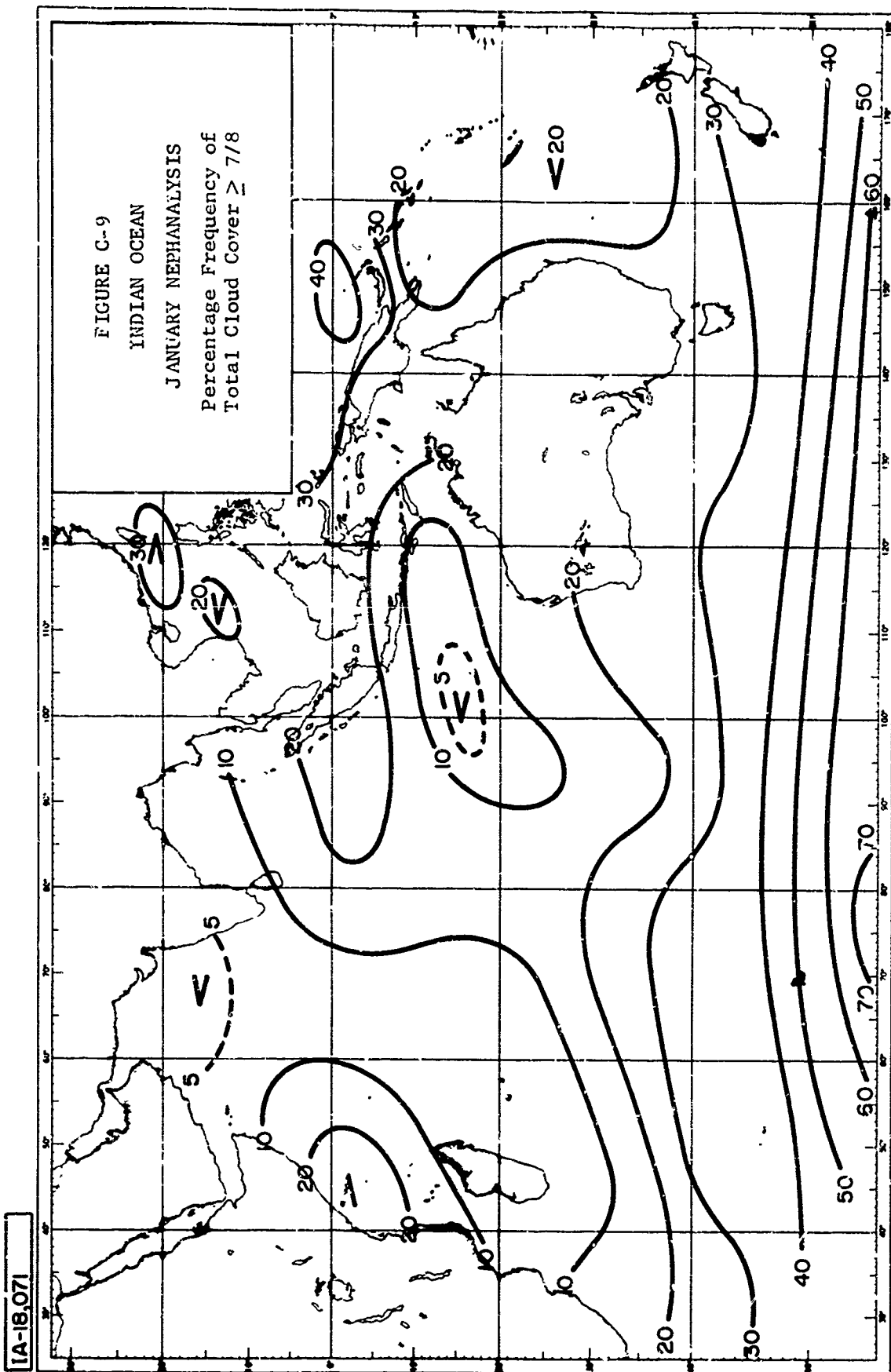
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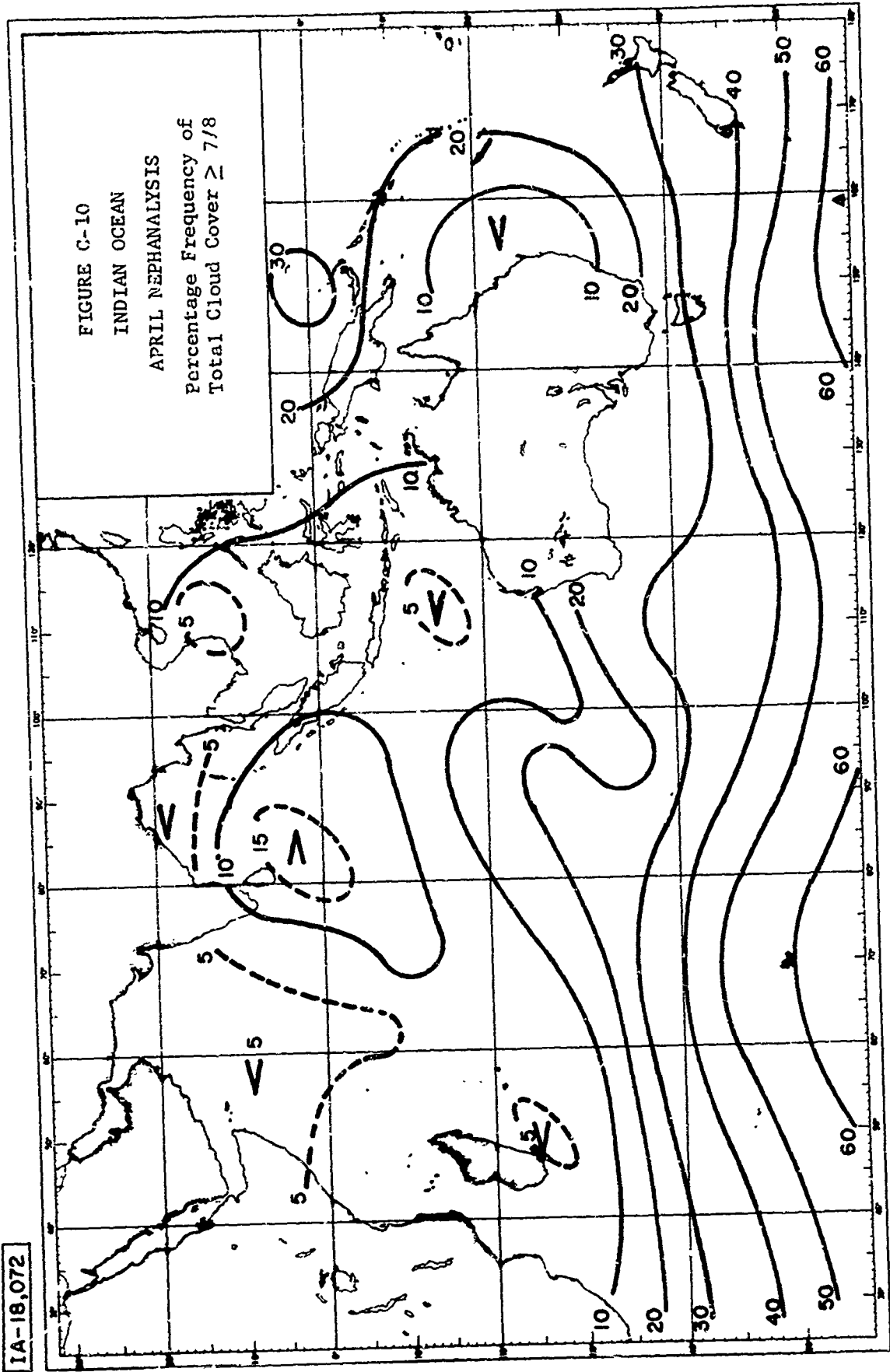


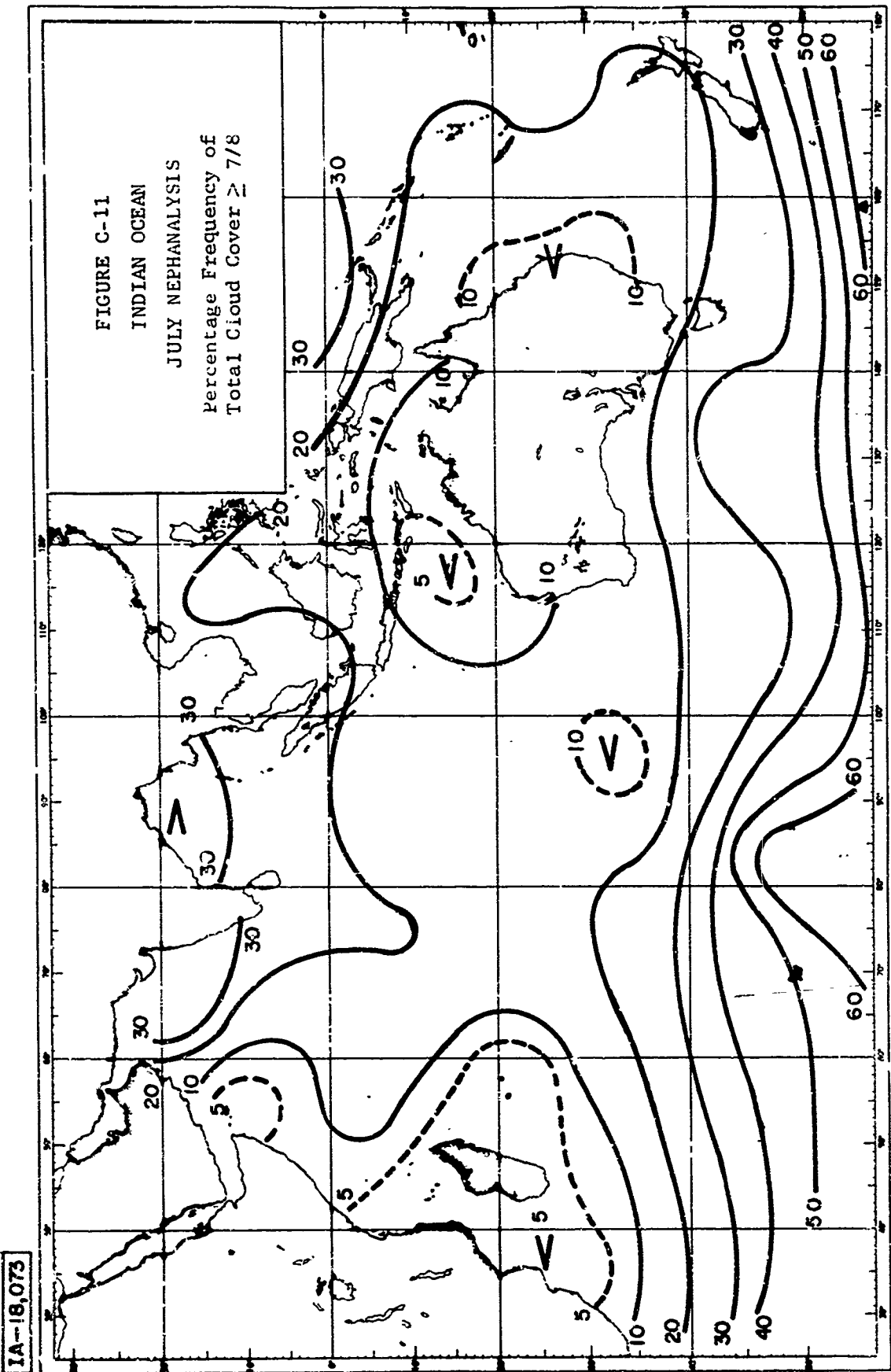


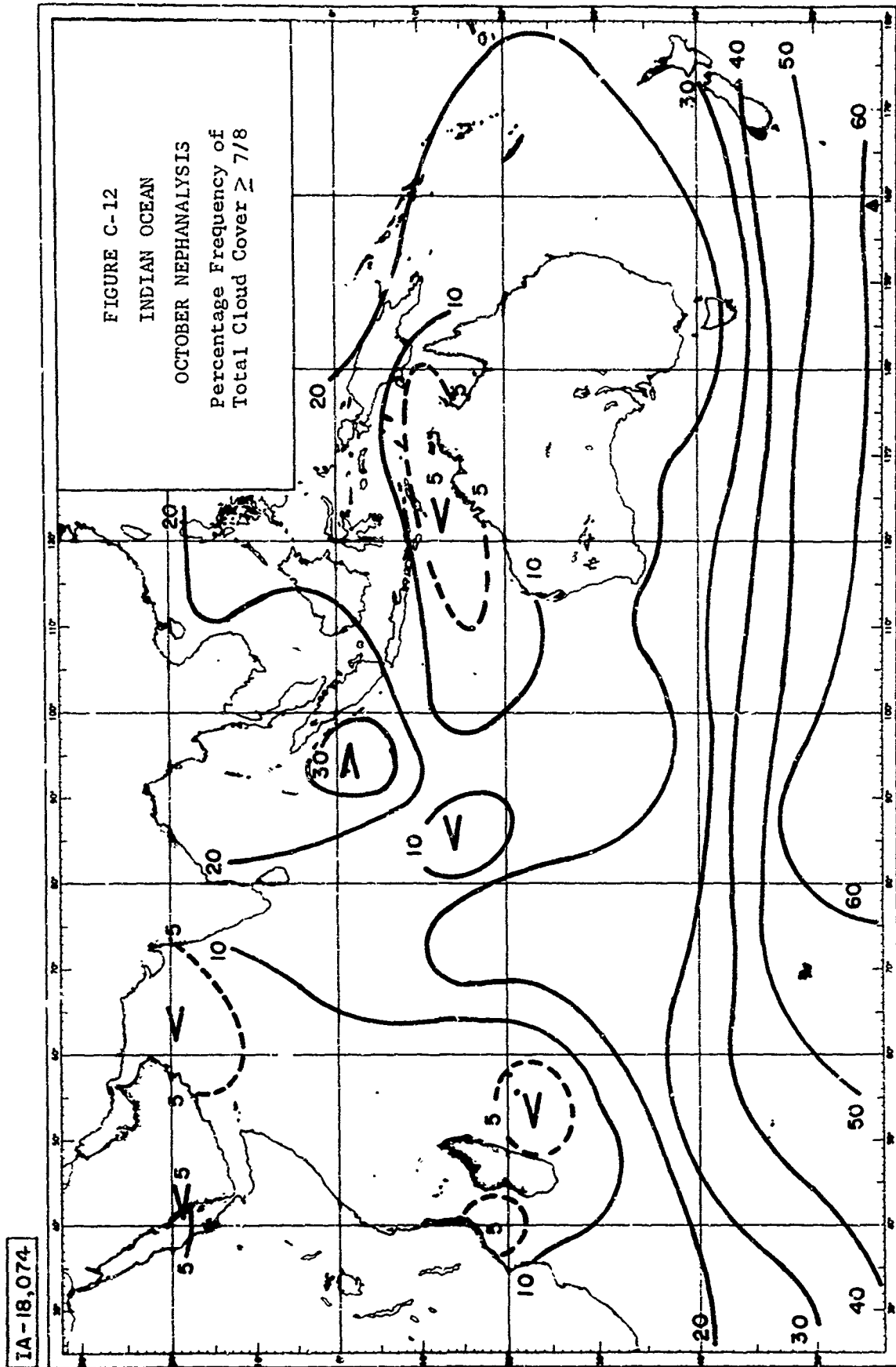
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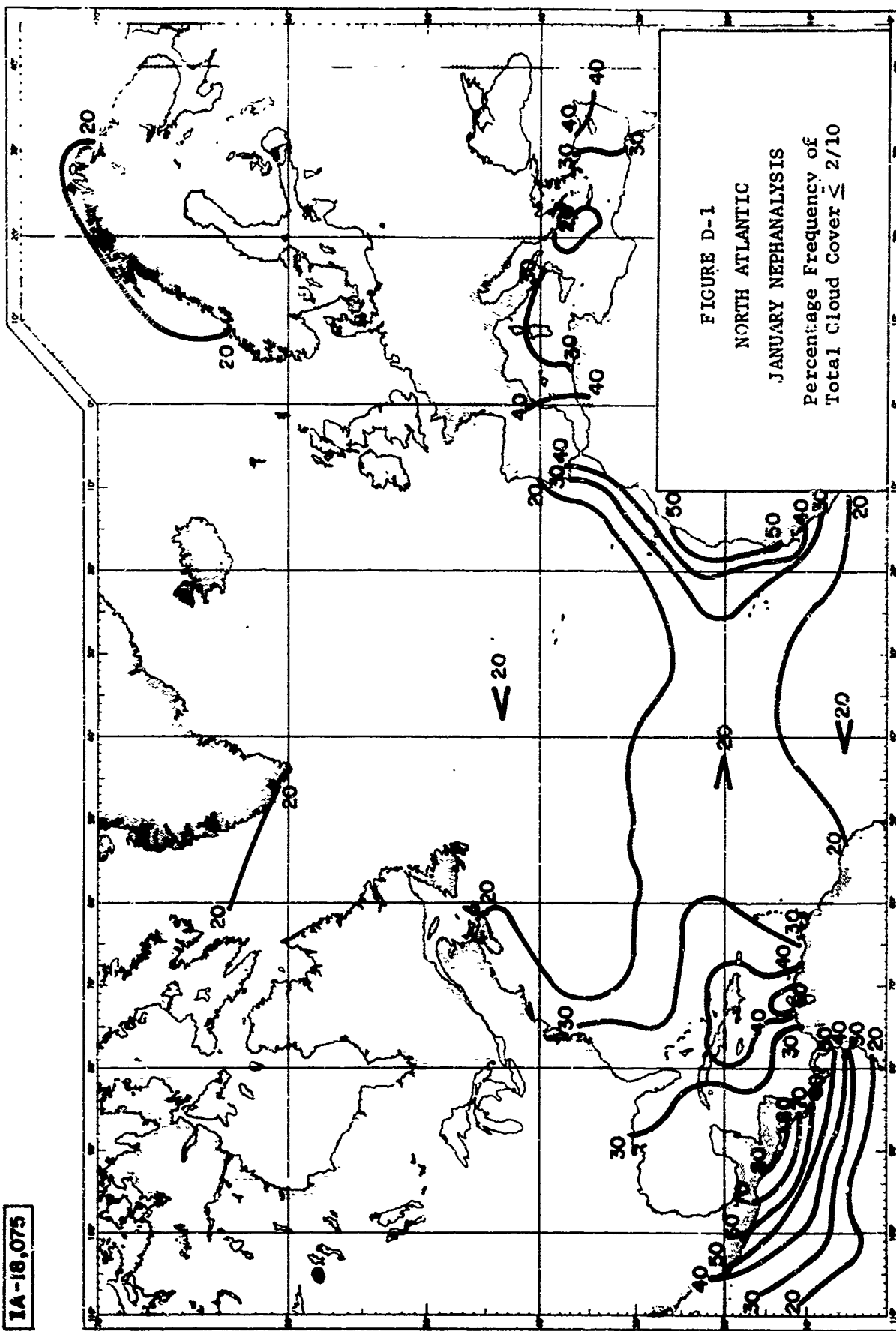


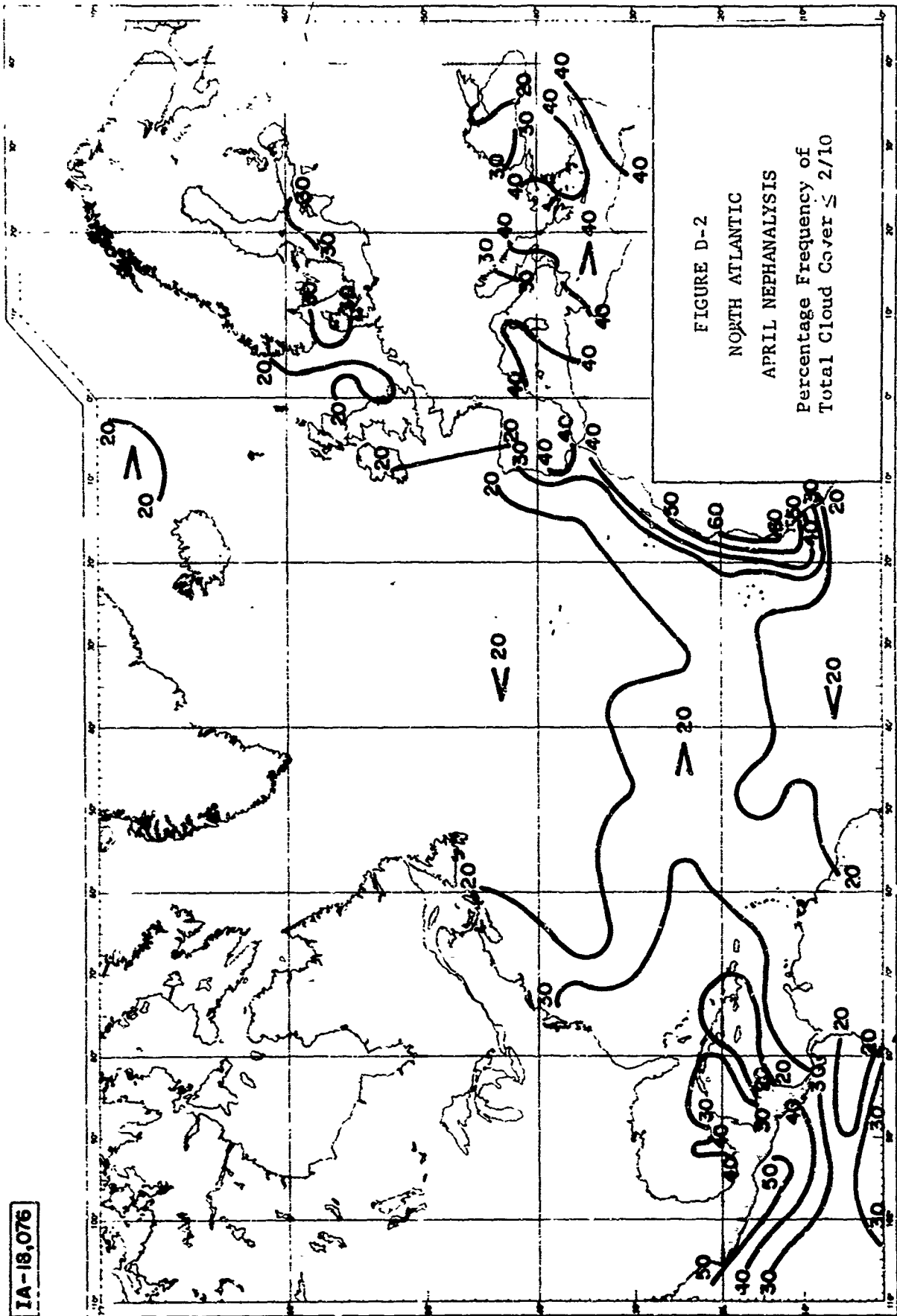


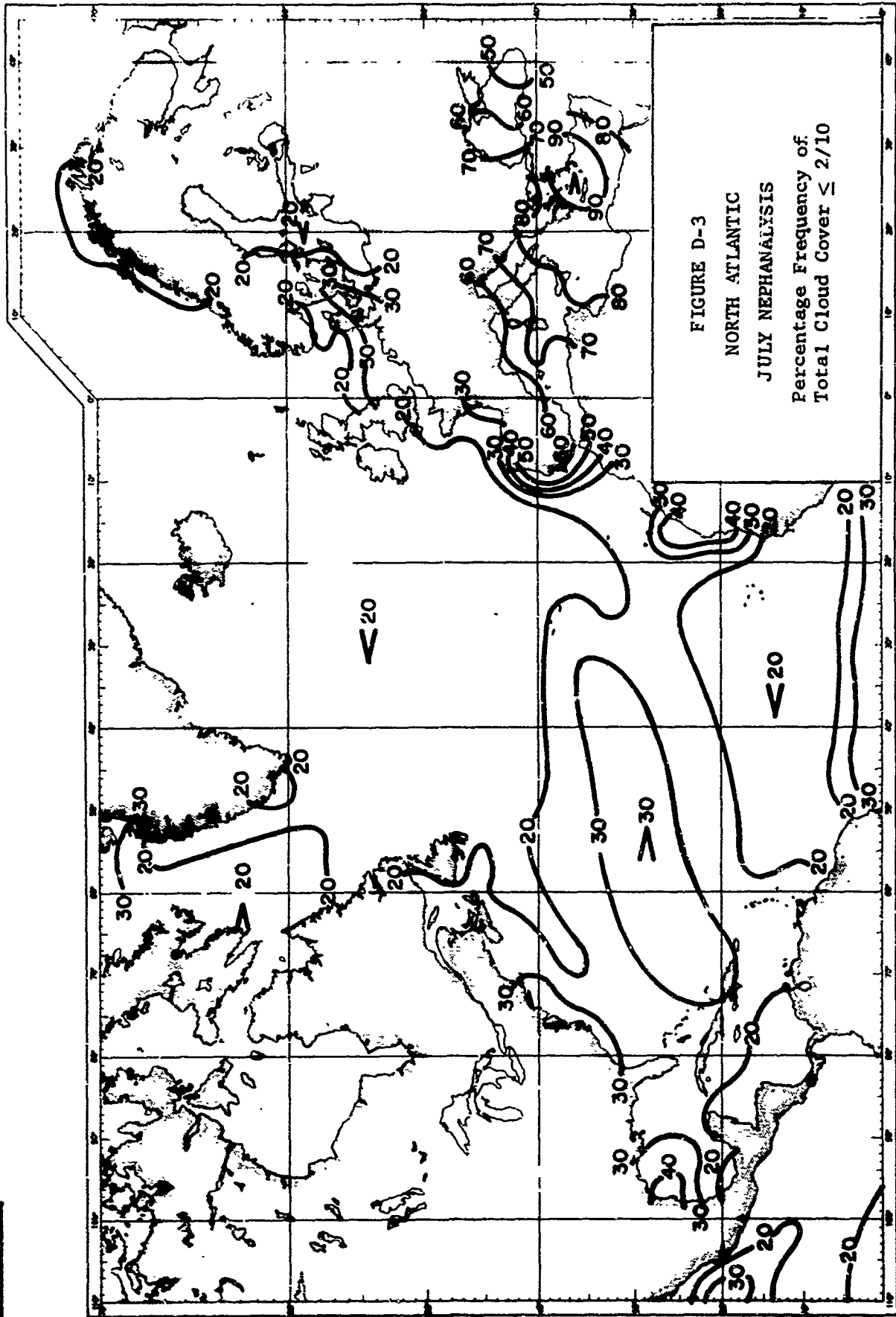


APPENDIX D

NEFHANALYSIS - PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF TOTAL CLOUD COVER $\leq 2/10$

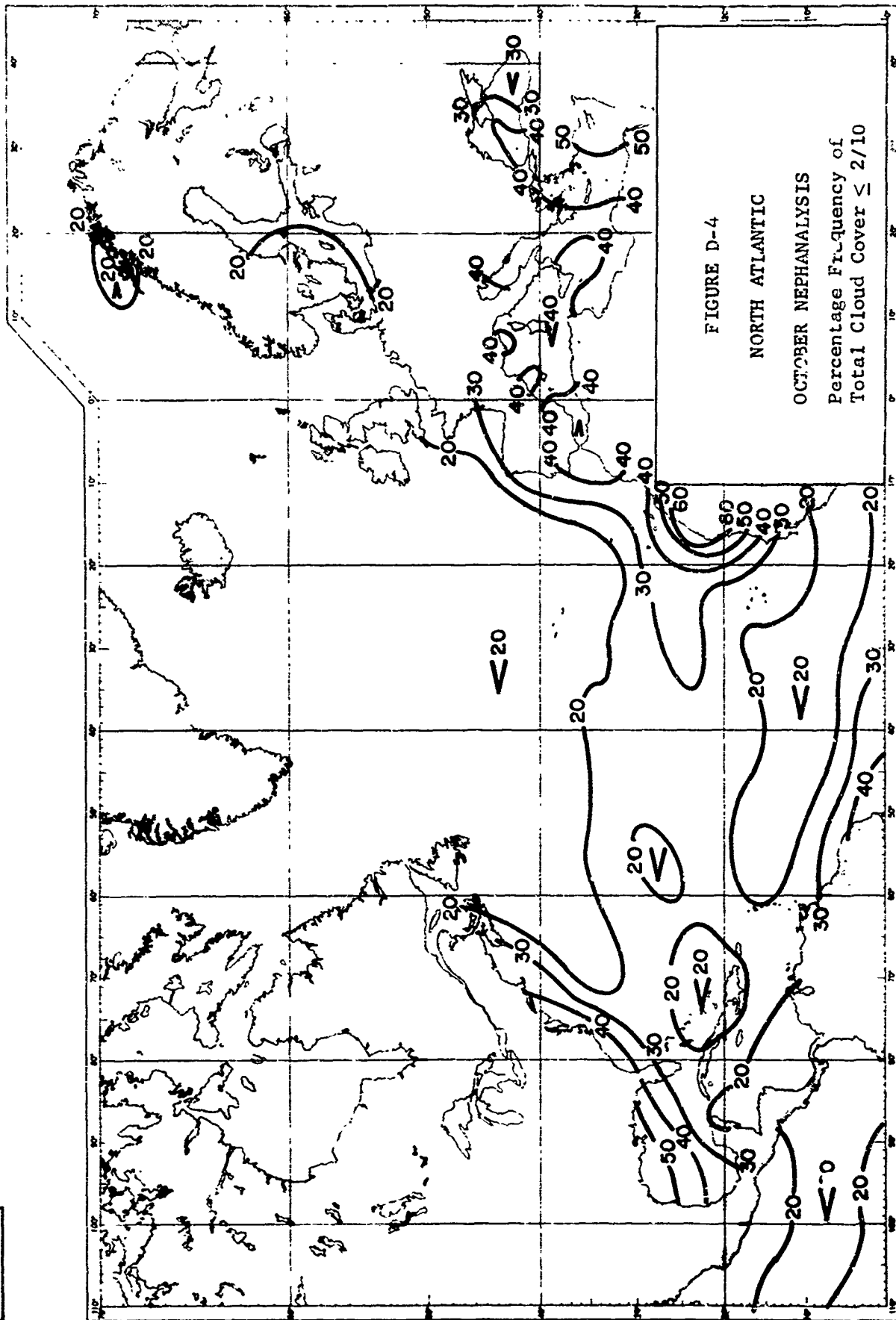






IA-18077

IA-18078



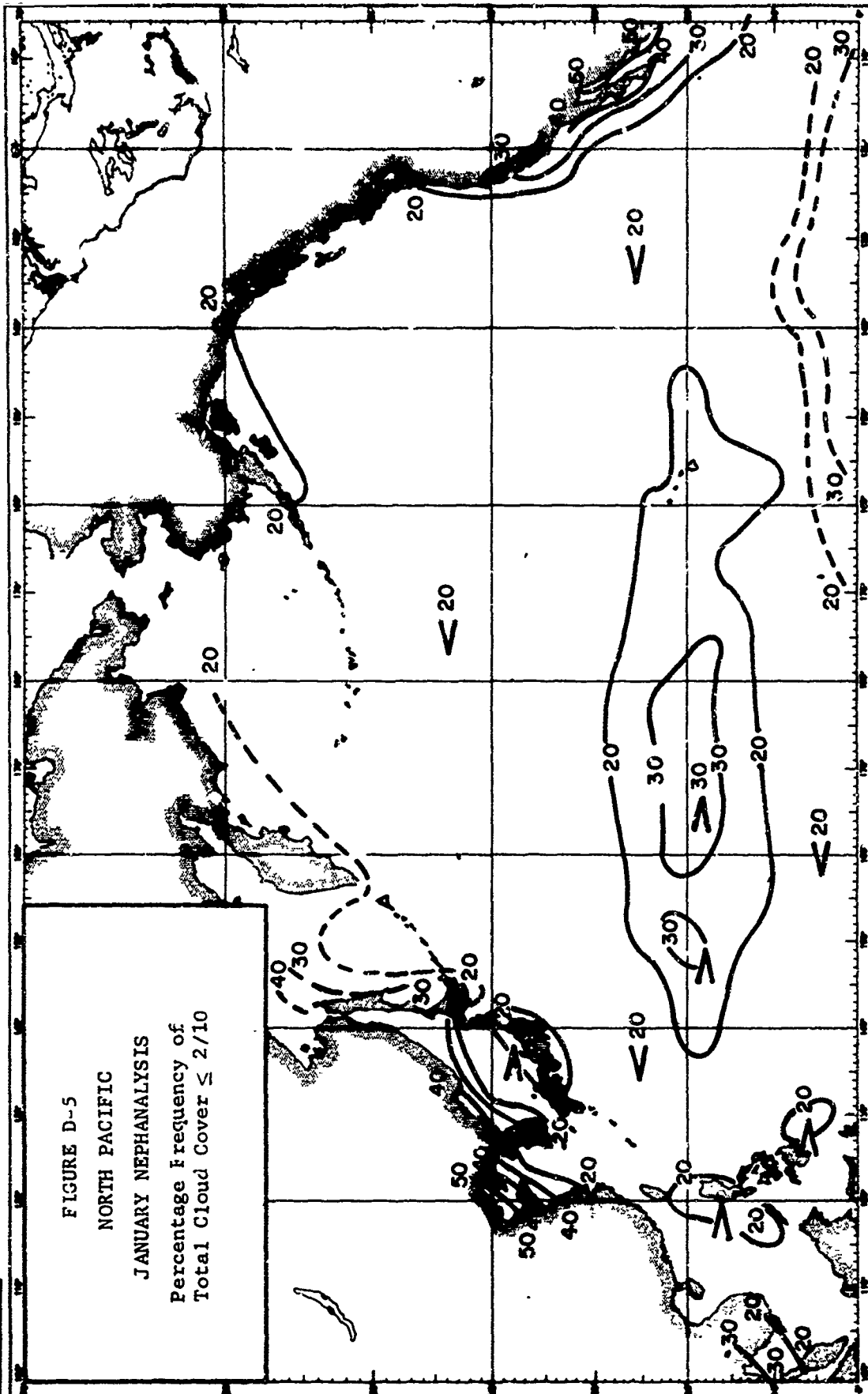
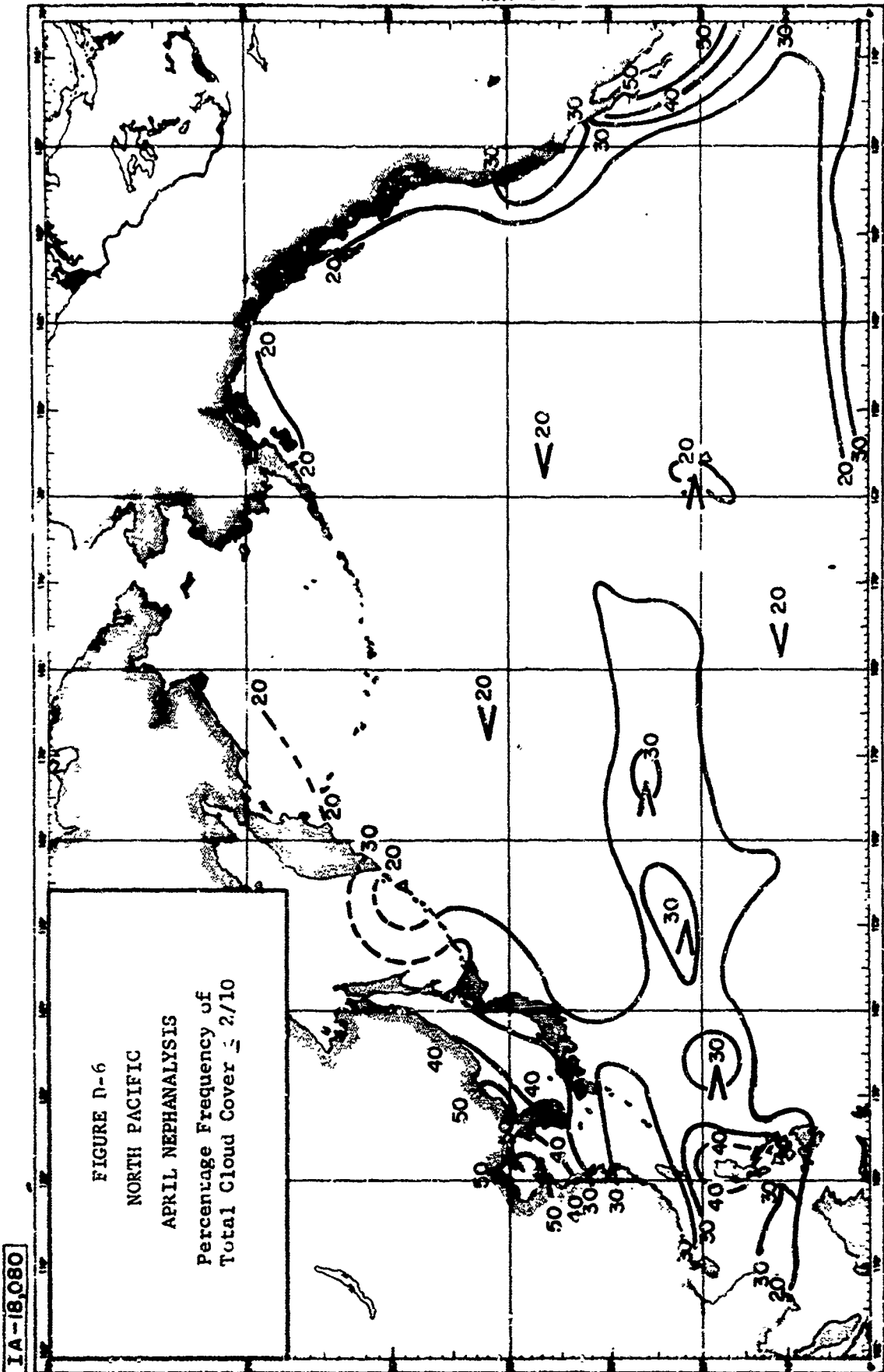


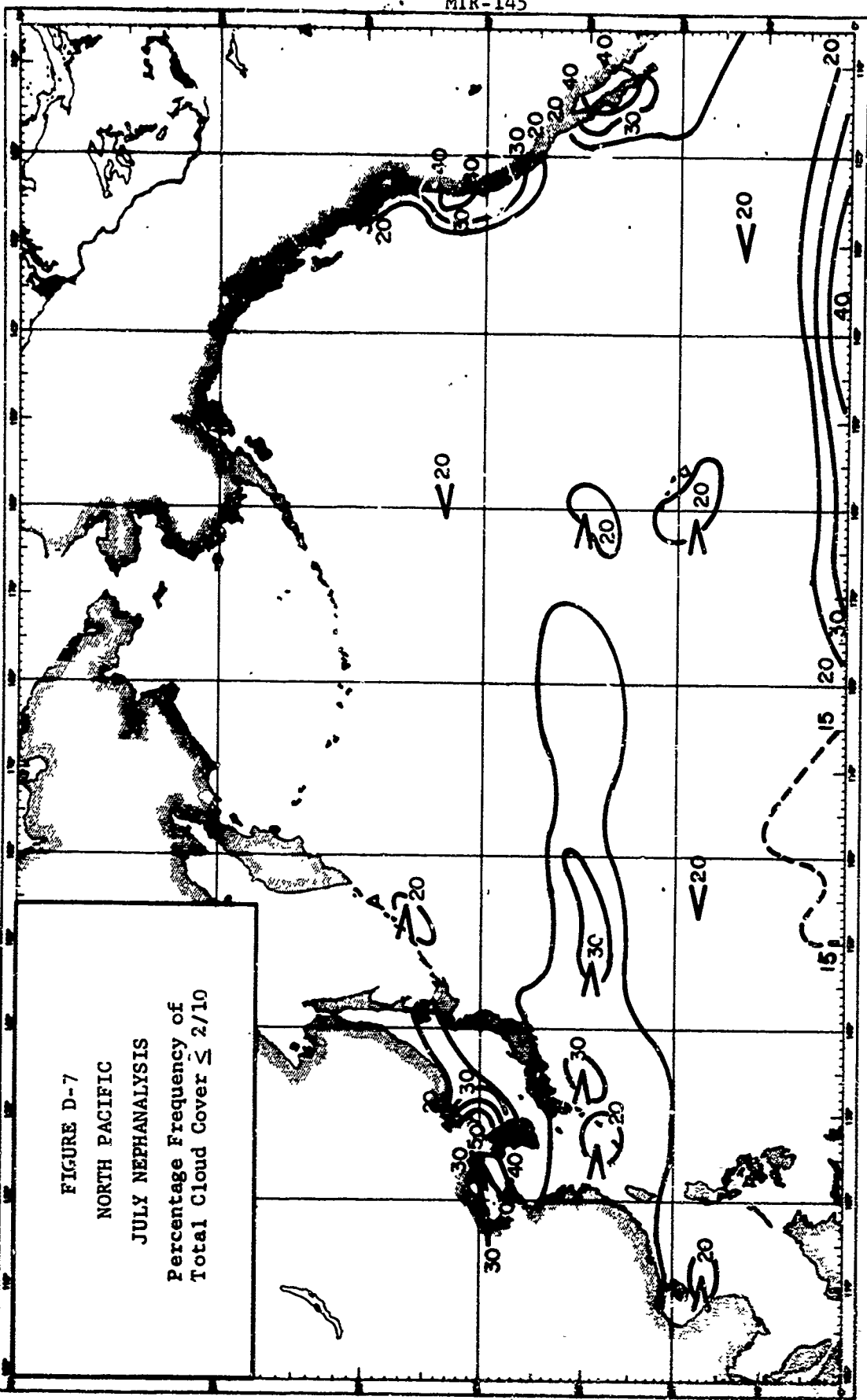
FIGURE D-5
NORTH PACIFIC
JANUARY NEPHELOMETER ANALYSIS
Percentage Frequency of
Total Cloud Cover $\leq 2/10$

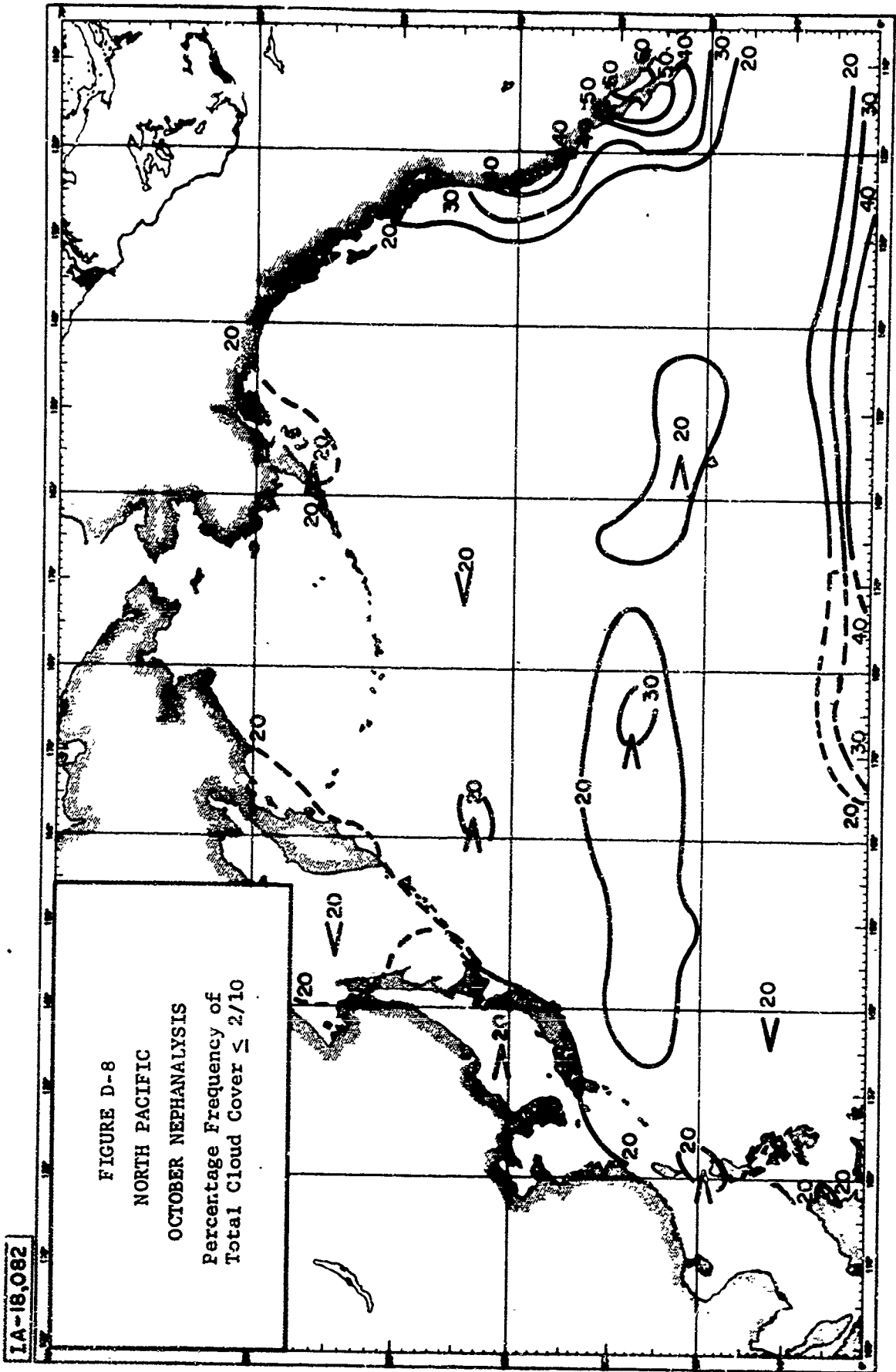
IA-18,079



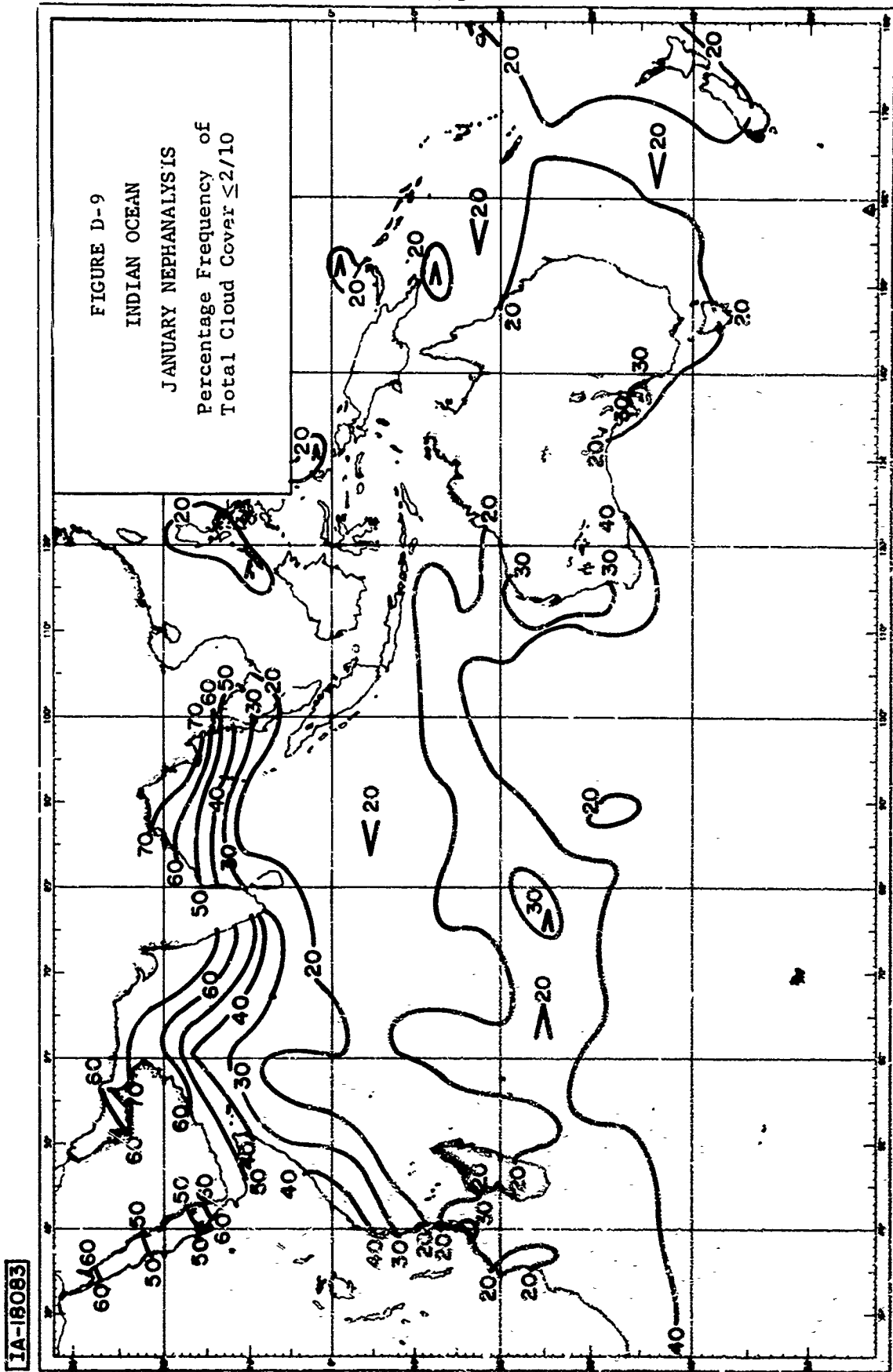
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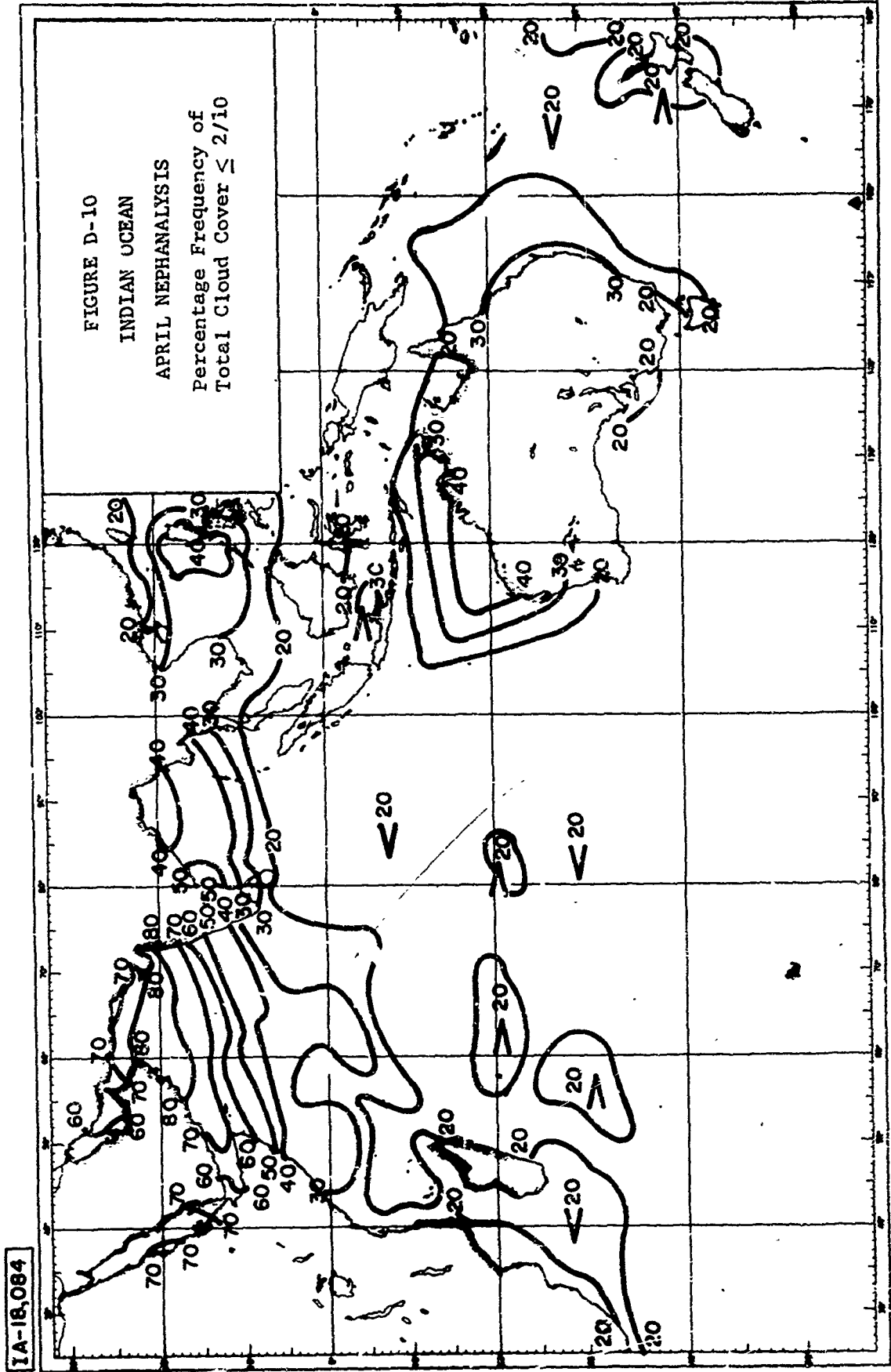
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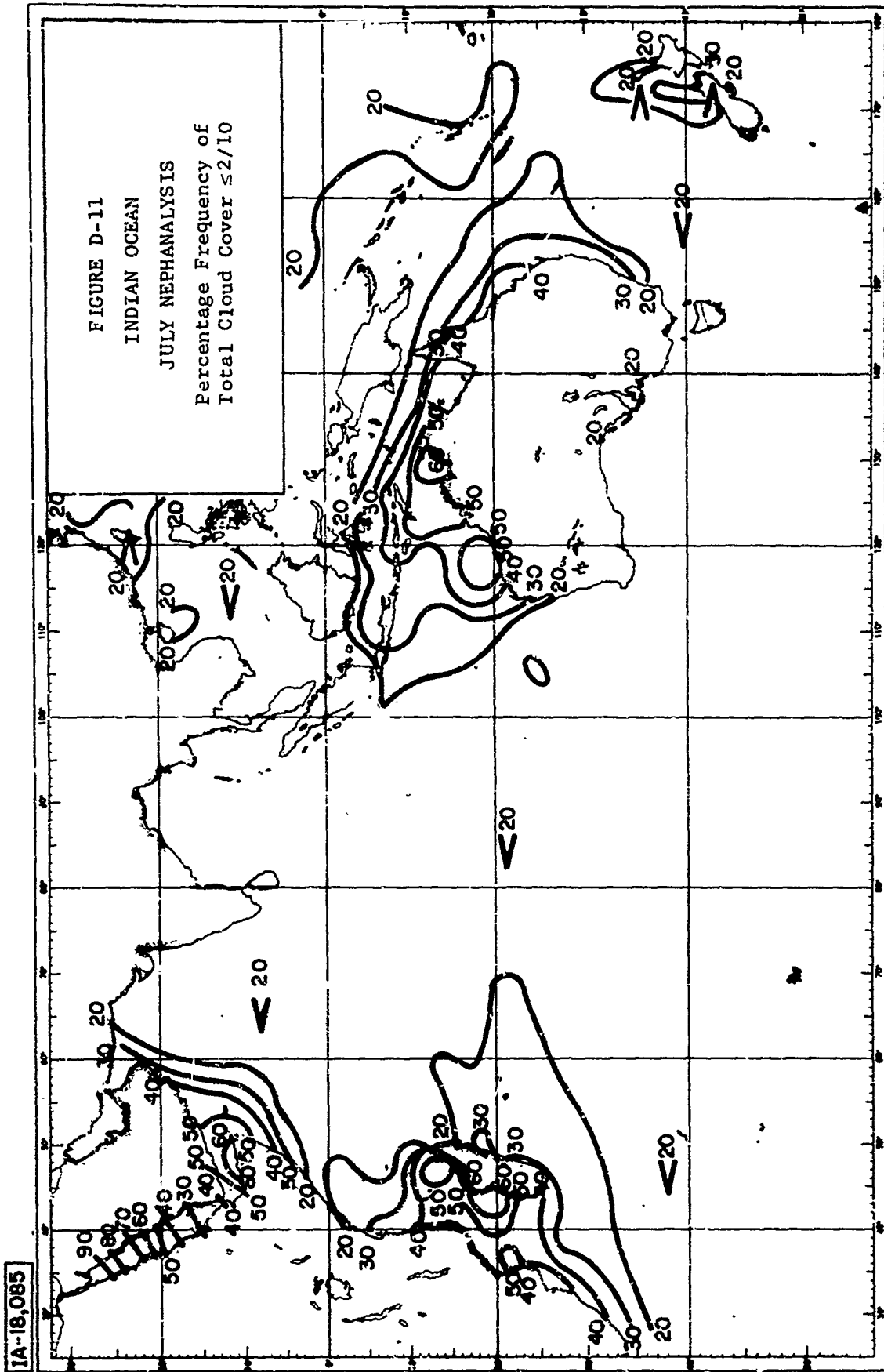


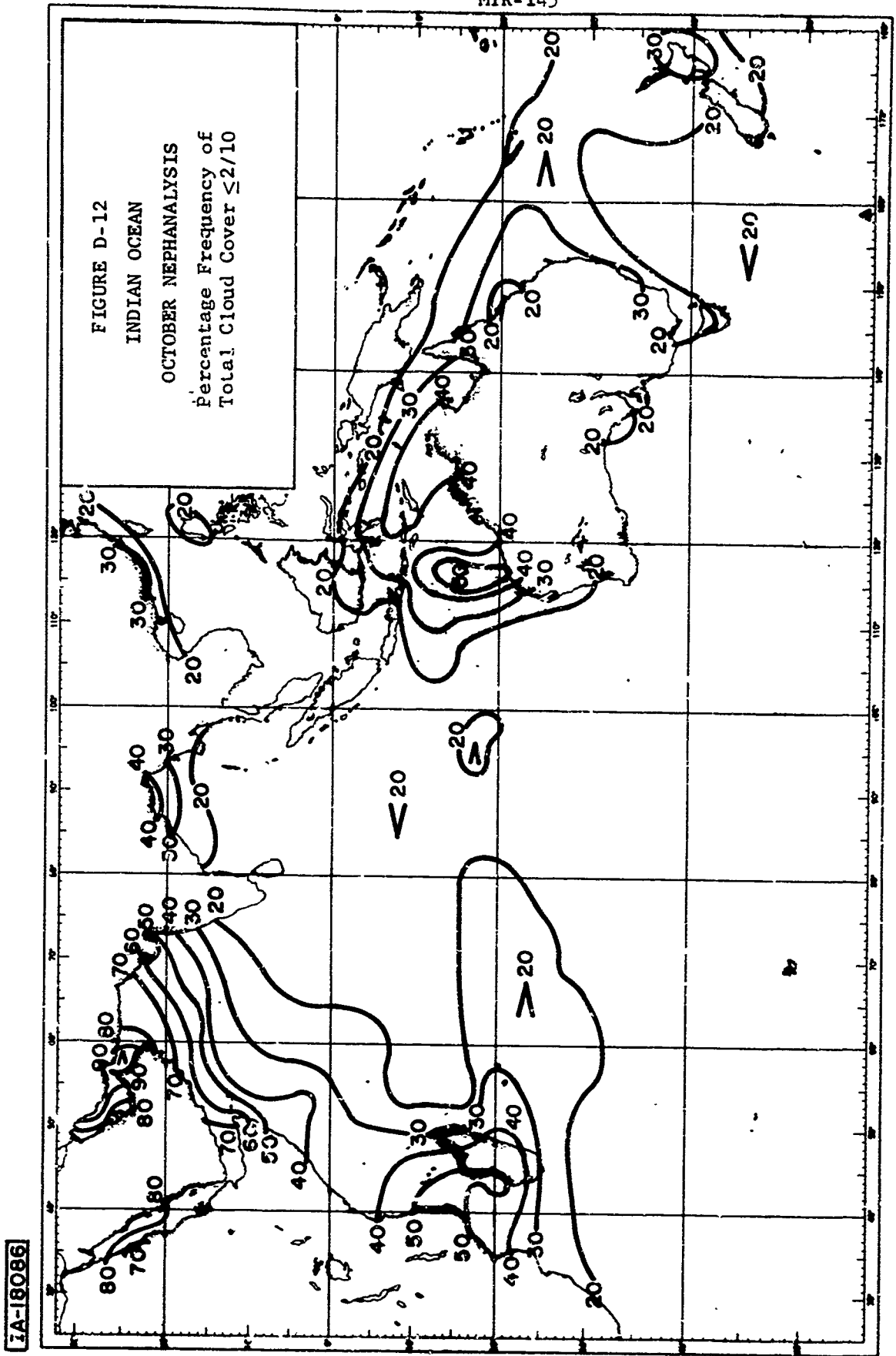


IA-18,082









APPENDIX E

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