Tiros Reveals Gigantic Storm

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WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Federal Space Agency disclosed yesterday that the Tiros I weather satellite has photographed the greatest storm ever observed, a "fabulously large" cyclone more than 2,000 miles across.

Tiros photographed the storm first on April 1, the day the satellite was launched, and kept it under periodic surveillance for more than three days. Weather scientists had not realized such huge circulation patterns existed.

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PICTURES OF the giant rotary cloud pattern were screened for newsmen, along with scores of others sent to the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) by the Kaena Point, Hawaii, tracking station.

Other pictures showed portions of Russia and Japan, plus the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, all of which appeared to be snowcovered.

WILLIAM G. Stroud, director of the Tiros I project for NASA, said the cyclone lay in the Pacific between Hawaii and the equator. He explained that the larger a cyclonic storm is, the gentler it is. The cyclones which do the most damage are the relatively little ones—tornadoes which may be only a few hundred feet across and hurricanes a few miles in diameter.

The pictures showed the Pacific storm to be a gigantic circle, with tightly packed bands at the center and broad bands, scores of miles wide, at the edge.

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STROUD called the storm "a fabulously large circular flow, the largest ever observed."

Only a weather eye like Tiros I's could have spotted the cyclone. The satellite is circling the earth 450 miles up every 99 minutes.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
TIROS Satellites and Satellite Meteorology

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