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COVER PHOTO: Successive images from DMSP SSM/I, the first operational microwave imager, from 23 October 1987 over the western Pacific and Indian Oceans. Brightness temperatures are shown from the 22 GHz channel. This frequency is on the wings of a water vapor absorption band and is used to estimate total atmospheric water vapor. The data is presented such that brightness count varies inversely with brightness temperature. Therefore, over the ocean low brightness counts represent warm brightness temperatures and high water vapor content. Note the high water vapor content from about 30°N to 20°S. Image analysis courtesy of Mr. James Clark and Dr. Andreas K. Goroch, Naval Environmental Prediction Facility, Monterey, CA.

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