WESTERN REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT
NO. 88-08
March 1, 1988

EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC ADVISORY 88/2
issued by
THE CLIMATE ANALYSIS CENTER/NMC
February 10, 1988

Most tropical Pacific indices and anomaly patterns indicate a continued trend towards normal. Rather strong easterly 850 mb zonal wind anomalies prevailed throughout the basin for the first time in more than a year. Positive sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies decreased in all three index regions (Niño 1+2, Niño 3 and Niño 4). The areal extent of SST anomalies greater than +1^{o}C also decreased noticeably from that observed during the September-November 1987 period.

In January 1988 Tahiti registered the largest positive sea level pressure anomaly in more than two years. Darwin also had a fairly large positive anomaly, but due to the in-phase nature of the pressure fluctuation at the two stations the Southern Oscillation Index was close to zero (-0.2).

Stronger than normal atmospheric convection continued to be observed along the equator in the vicinity of the date line, while weaker than normal convection occurred over northern and eastern Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. Thus, while most indices for January indicated a continued trend towards normal, anomalous convective activity characteristic of warm episodes continued to be observed in the western and central equatorial Pacific.

Climate Analysis Center
National Meteorological Center
National Weather Service
World Weather Building
Washington, D.C. 20233