



**Figure 1.** Latitude-altitude cross section for January 1993 showing longitudinally averaged potential temperature (solid contours) and temperature (dashed contours). The heavy solid contour (cut off at the 380-K isentrope) denotes the 2-PVU potential vorticity contour, which approximates the tropopause outside the tropics. Shaded areas denote the “lowermost stratosphere,” whose isentropic or potential temperature surfaces span the tropopause. Data are from UKMO analyses [Swinbank and O’Neill, 1994]. In these data the tropical tropopause occurs near  $\theta \approx 380$  K, which is somewhat higher than the mean tropical tropopause potential temperature ( $\theta \approx 370$  K) determined from radiosonde data by Reid and Gage [1981]. Polar tropopauses are far more variable and less well defined than might be suggested here. Figure courtesy of C. Appenzeller.