



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.935
30 September 1999
Original: ENGLISH**REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS****Third quarterly report
(July to September 1999)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fifth session in May 1995, instructed the Secretariat to issue, as from 31 July 1995, monthly reports of all incidents of piracy¹ and armed robbery against ships reported to the Organization and, in addition, on a quarterly basis, composite reports accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation and an indication whether the frequency of incidents is increasing or decreasing and advising on any new feature or pattern of significance.

2 Annexed hereto is a composite report covering all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships received between 1 July and the end of September 1999, and a regional analysis thereof.

3 The areas most affected over the period under review were the South East Asian waters, West Africa, South America and the Indian Ocean. Most of the attacks were reported in territorial waters while the ships were at anchor or on berth. In several of the attacks, the crews were violently attacked by isolated people or groups of two to ten people carrying guns or knives. During the period under review, one security guard was killed, one crew member went missing, thirteen crew members were assaulted and thirteen other crew members were taken hostage, while two ships were reported hijacked or destroyed.

4 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,543, an increase of 63 since 30 June 1999.

¹ "Piracy" is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101) as follows:

"Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:
 - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;
 - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) any act inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b)."

ANNEX 1

MSC/Circ.935

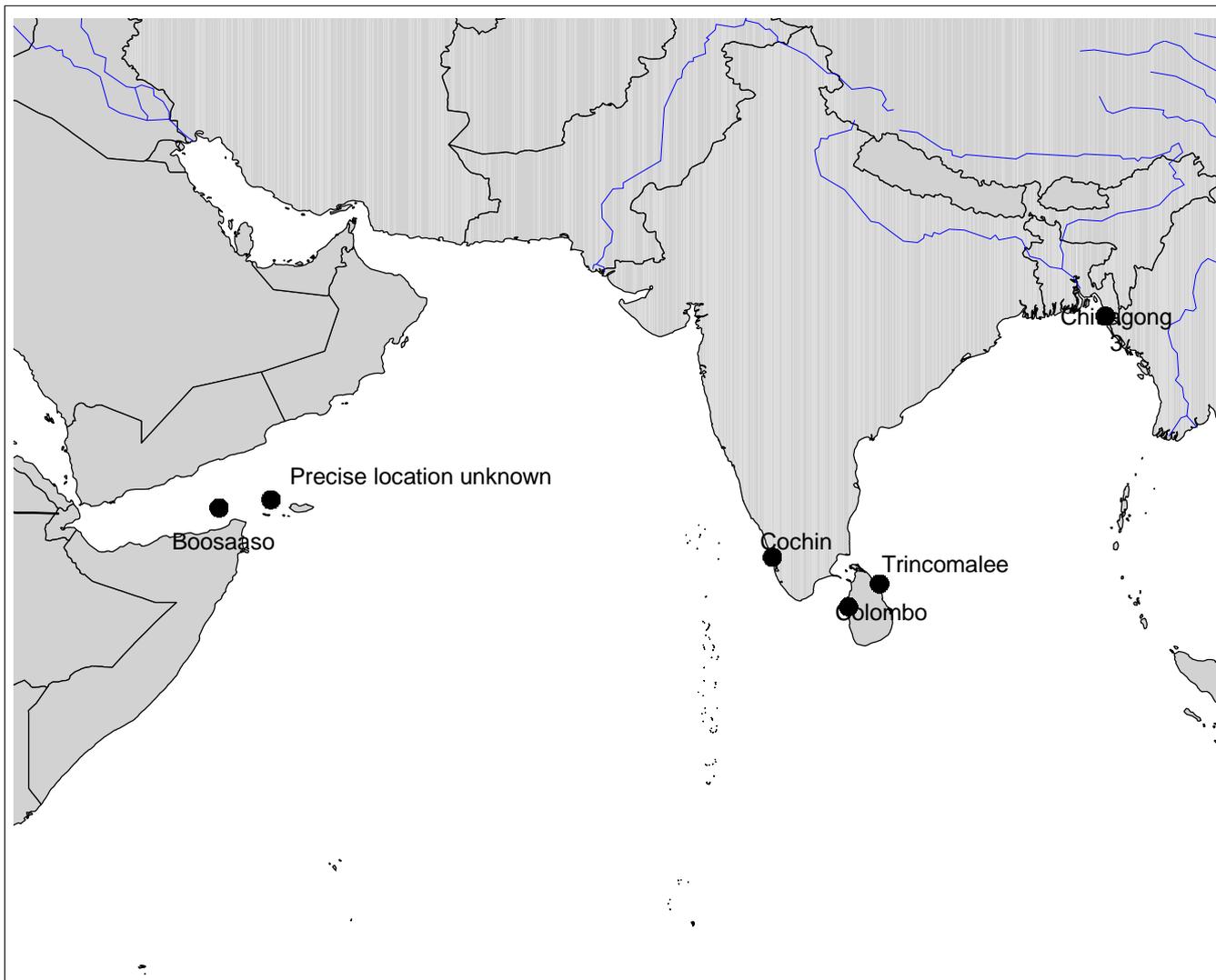
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1999

		SOUTH EAST ASIAN WATERS	INDIAN OCEAN	EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA	SOUTH AMERICA
Location of incident						
	In international waters	1		2	1	
	In territorial waters	25	5		8	7
	In port areas	6	1		2	5
Status of ship when attacked						
	Steaming	10	6	2	4	1
	At anchor or on berth	22			7	11
	Not stated					
Number of persons involved in the attack						
	1-4 persons	2	1			2
	5-10 persons	2	1		4	4
	More than 10 persons		2			1
	Not stated	28	2	2	7	5
Consequences to the crews						
	Actual violence used against crews	7	1		7	5
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	9	4		3	2
	Ship missing	2				
	Ship hijacked			2		
	None/not stated	14	1		1	5
Weapons used by attackers						
	Guns	2			4	4
	Knives	3	1		3	1
	Other		1			
	None/Not stated	27	4	2	4	7
Parts of the ship raided						
	Master and crew accommodation	8	3	2	4	4
	Cargo area	4	1		1	6
	Store rooms	11	2		4	2
	Engine room	1				
	Not boarded	8			2	
	Not stated					
Total number of incidents reported per areas		32	6	2	11	12
Total number of incidents reported		63				

SOUTH EAST ASIAN WATERS



INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



WEST AFRICA



SOUTH AMERICA



ANNEX 2

Piracy incidents reported during the period
1 July to 30 September 1999
(Presentation based on the date of reporting to IMO)

