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MSC/Circ.939
1 January 2000

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Fourth quarterly report (October to December 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 October and the end of December 1999, and a regional analysis thereof.

3 The areas most affected over the period under review were the South East Asian waters, the Indian Ocean, South America and West Africa. Most of the attacks were reported in territorial waters while the ships were at anchor or on berth. In several of the incidents reported, the crews were violently attacked by individuals or groups of two to ten persons carrying guns or knives. During the period under review, two crew members were killed, ten crew members were assaulted and injured, three of which were thrown overboard, and twenty three crew members were taken hostage, while seven ships were reported hijacked or missing.

4 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,621, an increase of 78 since 30 September 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)."

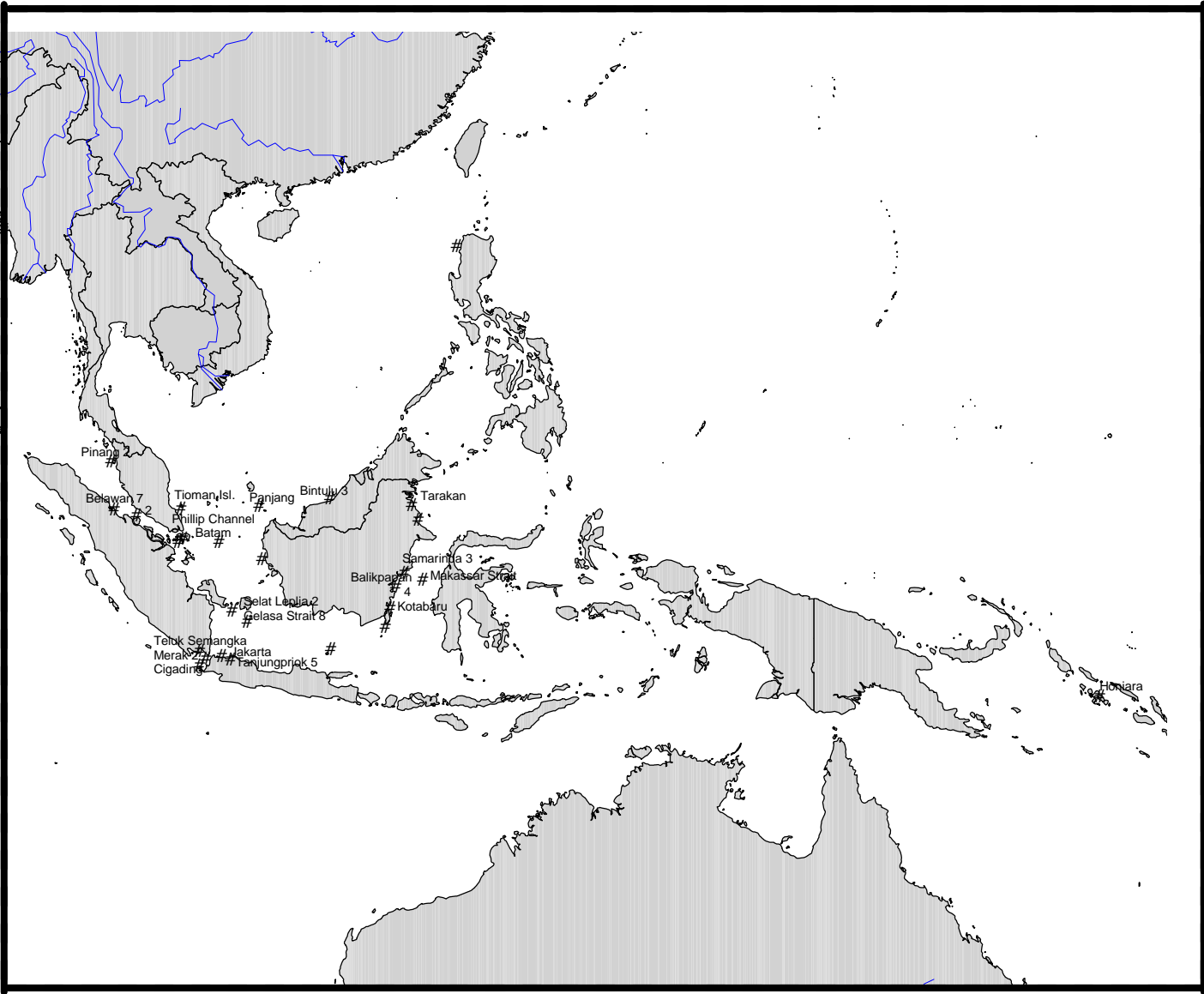
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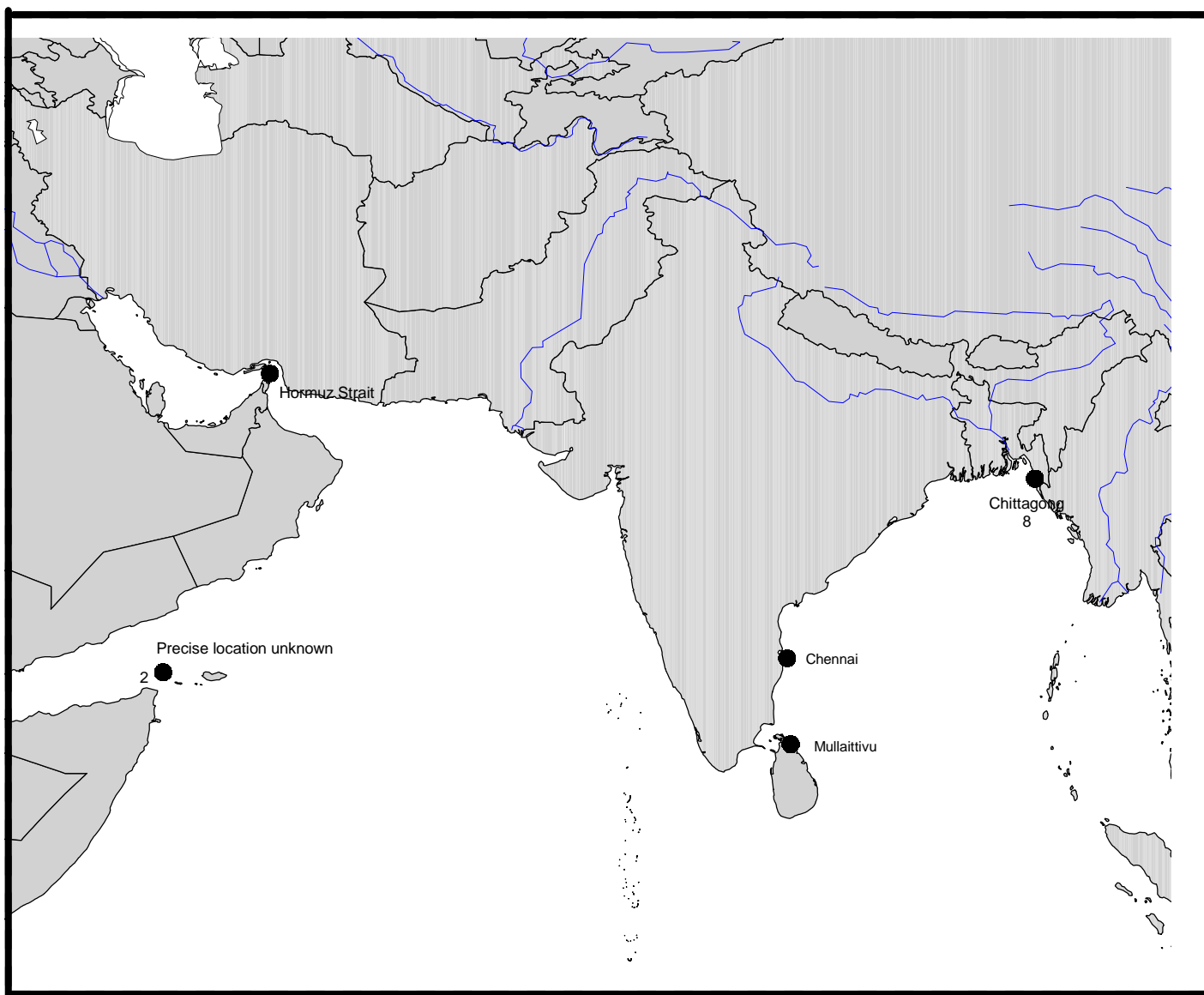
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1999

		SOUTH EAST ASIAN WATERS AND SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN	INDIAN OCEAN	EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA	SOUTH AMERICA	MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Location of incident							
	In international waters	2		1	1		
	In territorial waters	33	4	1	2	2	
	In port areas	18	7		2	4	1
Status of ship when attacked							
	Steaming	21	2	2	2	1	
	At anchor or on berth	31	9		2	5	1
	Not stated	1			1		
Number of persons involved in the attack							
	1-4 persons	3	2			2	
	5-10 persons	6	1		1	2	
	More than 10 persons	1			1		
	Not stated	43	8	2	3	2	1
Consequences to the crew							
	Actual violence used against crew	16	3	1	2	3	
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	1	1		1	1	
	Ship missing	2		1			
	Ship hijacked	2			1	1	
	None/not stated	32	7		1	1	1
Weapons used by attackers							
	Guns	7	1	1	1	2	
	Knives	7	3		2		
	Other	1	1				
	None/Not stated	38	6	1	2	4	1
Parts of the ship raided							
	Master and crew accommodation	16		2	1	3	1
	Cargo area	12					
	Store rooms	13	8		2	2	
	Engine room	4					
	Not boarded	7	3		2		
	Not stated	1				1	
Total number of incidents reported per areas		53	11	2	5	6	1
Total number of incidents reported		78					

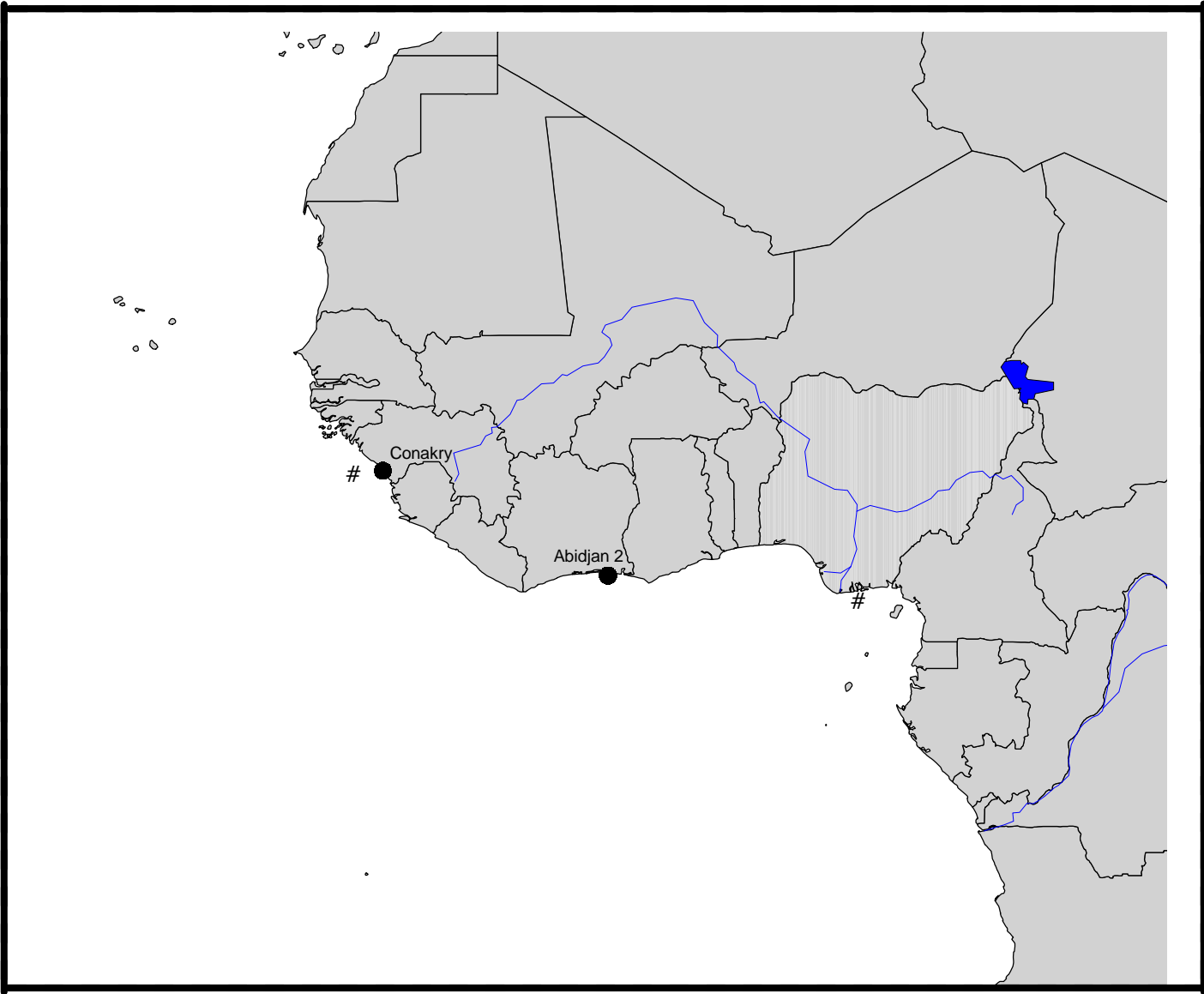
SOUTH EAST ASIAN WATERS AND SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN



EAST AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN



WEST AFRICA



SOUTH AMERICA



MEDITERRANEAN SEA



* * *

ANNEX 2

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Piracy and armed robbery incidents reported during the period

1 October to 31 December 1999

(Presentation based on the date of reporting to IMO)

