



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.944
1 April 2000

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

First quarterly report (January to March 2000)

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 January and the end of March 2000, and a regional analysis thereof.

3 The areas most affected over the period under review were the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Malacca Strait, West and East Africa and South America. 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, eighteen crew members were assaulted and injured, twelve crew members were set adrift in a liferaft, and twenty-one crew members were taken hostage, while one ship was reported hijacked.

4 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,751, an increase of 130 since 31 December 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)."

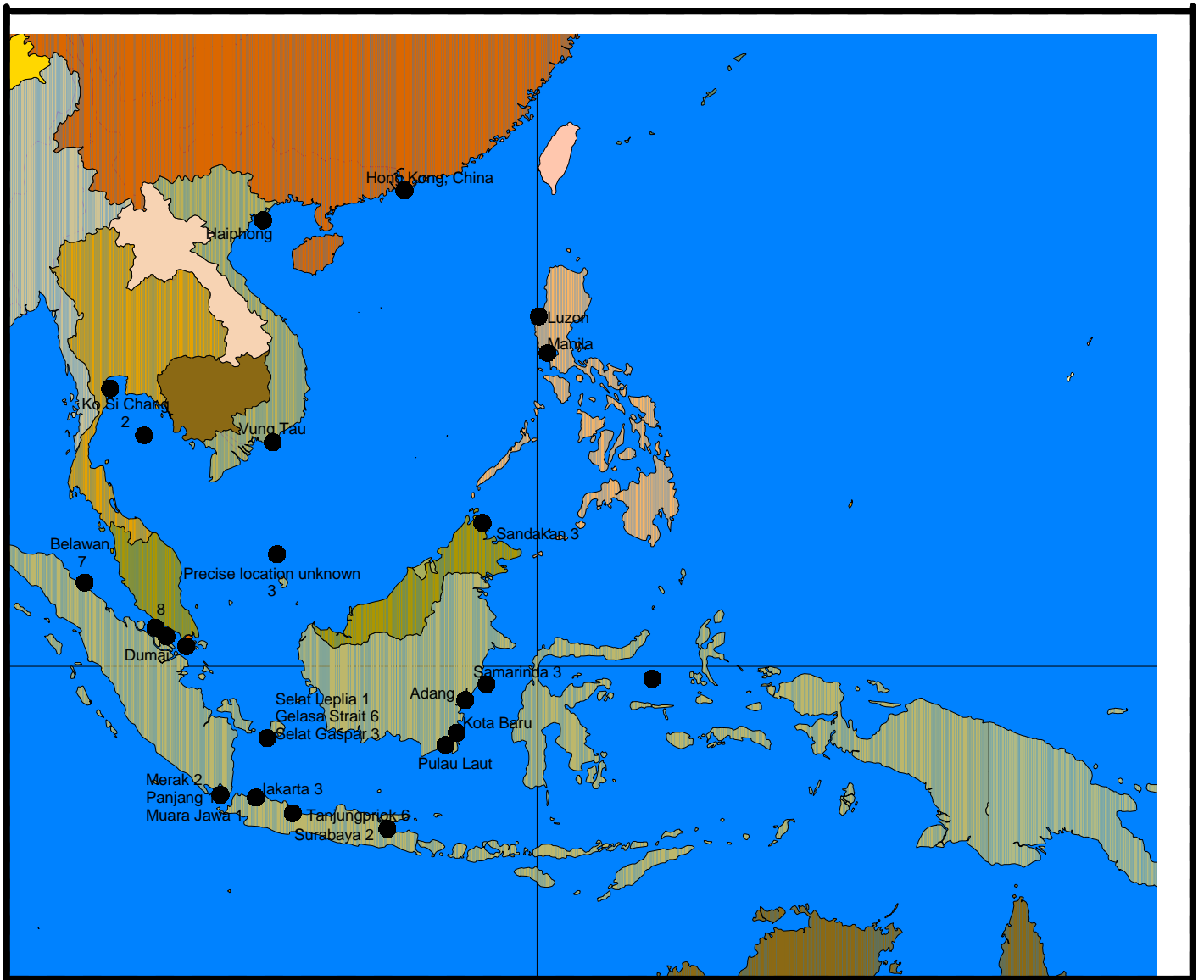
ANNEX 1

MSC/Circ.944

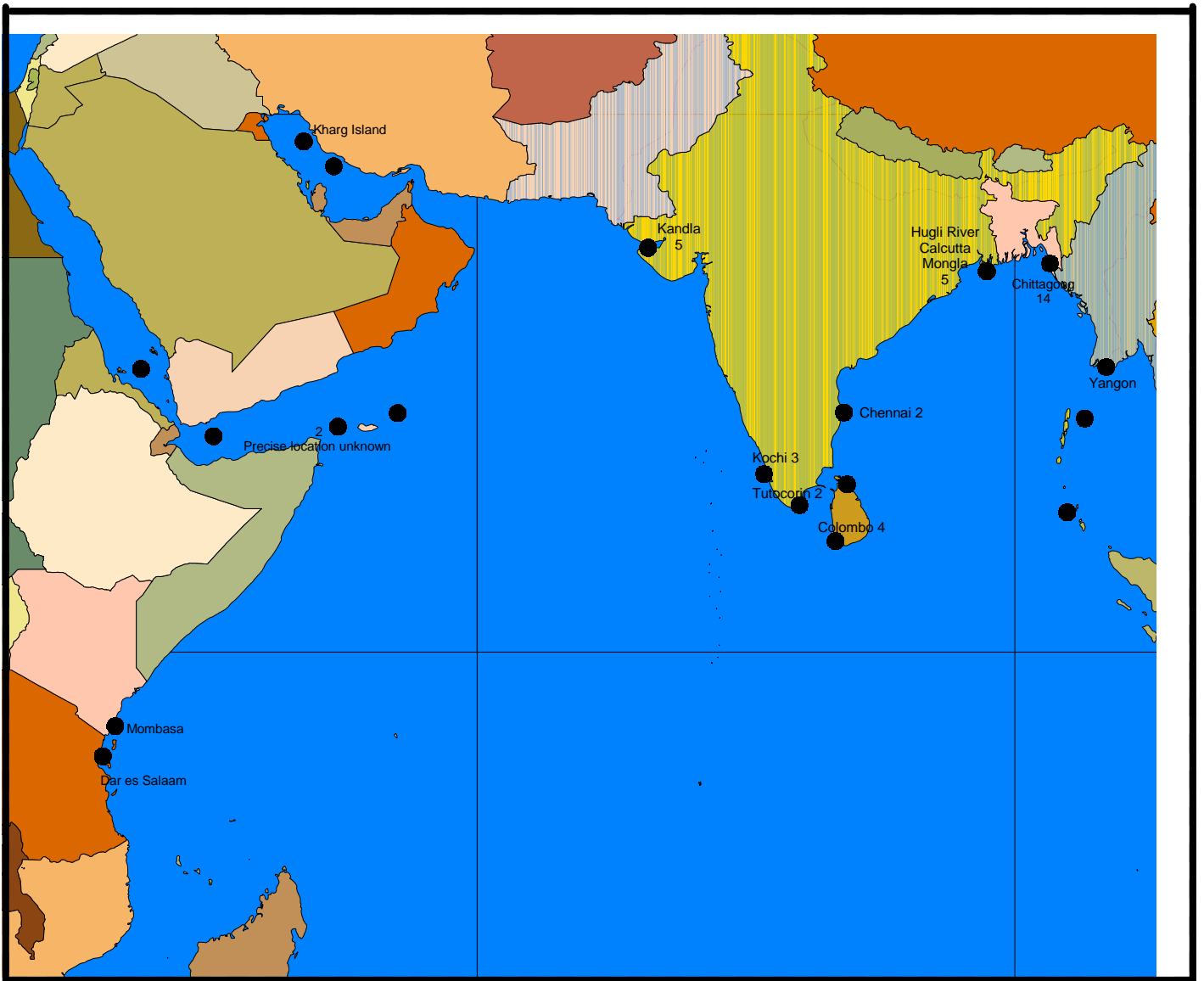
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2000

		FAR EAST			AFRICA		NORTH & SOUTH AMERICAS	MEDITERRANEAN SEA
		MALACCA STRAIT	SOUTH CHINA SEA	INDIAN OCEAN	EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA		
Location of incident								
	In international waters	9	3	5	3	2		
	In territorial waters	7	34	35	2	10	4	2
	In port areas	1	9	2		1	1	
Status of ship when attacked								
	Steaming	9	16	5	3	5		
	At anchor or on berth	8	30	36	2	7	5	2
	Not stated			1		1		
Number of persons involved in the attack								
	1-4 persons	1	2	2	1	2	1	
	5-10 persons	2	4	2		4	2	
	More than 10 persons			1		1		
	Not stated	14	40	37	4	6	2	2
Consequences to the crew								
	Actual violence used against crew	4	9	4	2	7	2	
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	9	13	5		4	2	
	Ship missing							
	Ship hijacked			2				
	None/not stated	4	24	31	3	2	1	2
Weapons used by attackers								
	Guns	1	3	4	2	4	3	
	Knives	6	7	3		5		
	Other		1				1	
	None/Not stated	10	35	35	3	4	1	2
Parts of the ship raided								
	Master and crew accommodation	3	4	3		3	2	
	Cargo area	4	9	11	2	2	1	
	Store rooms		15	22	1		2	2
	Engine room	1	3			5		
	Not boarded	9	14	6	2	3		
	Not stated		1					
Total number of incidents reported per areas		17	46	42	5	13	5	2
Total number of incidents reported		130						

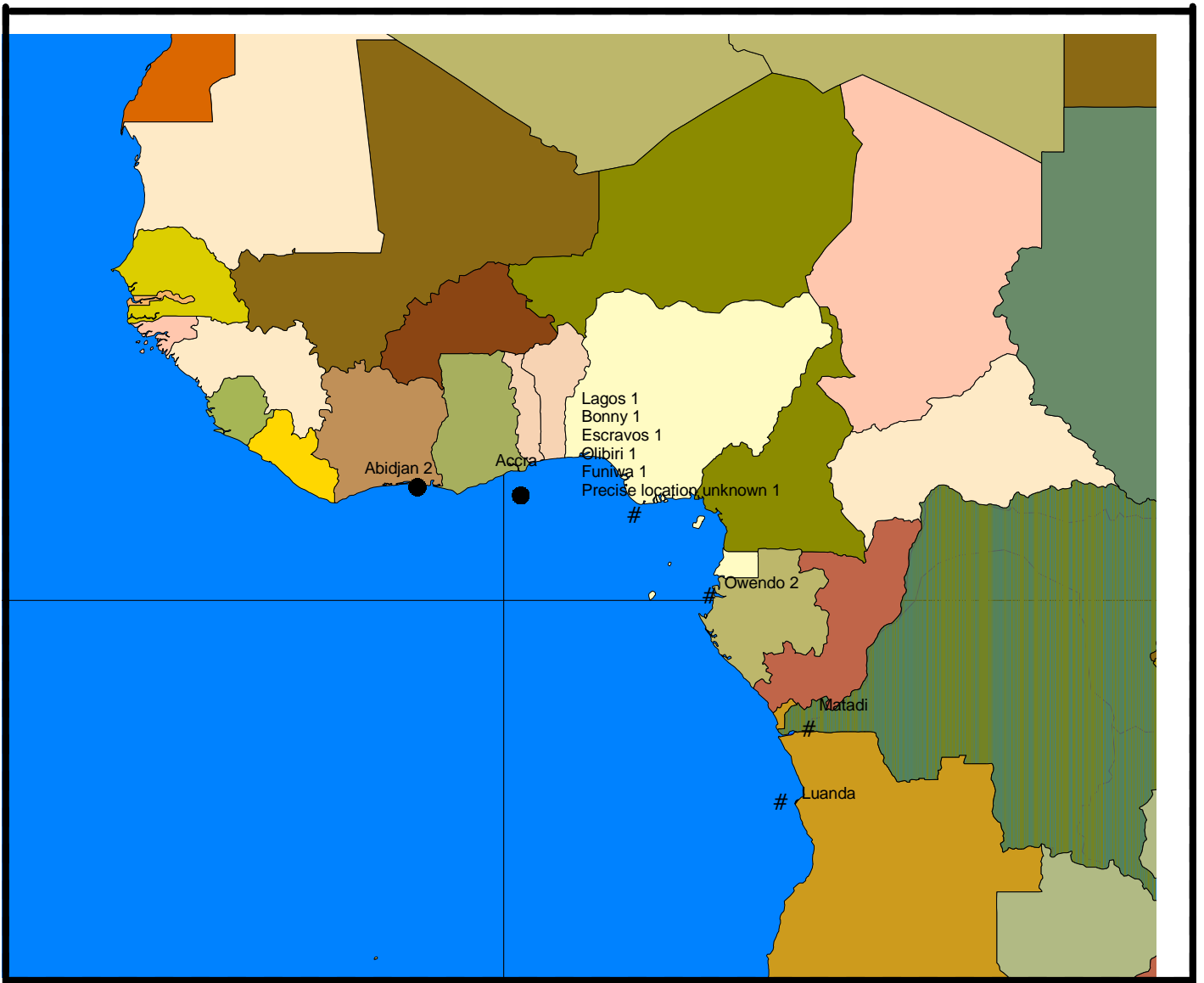
SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



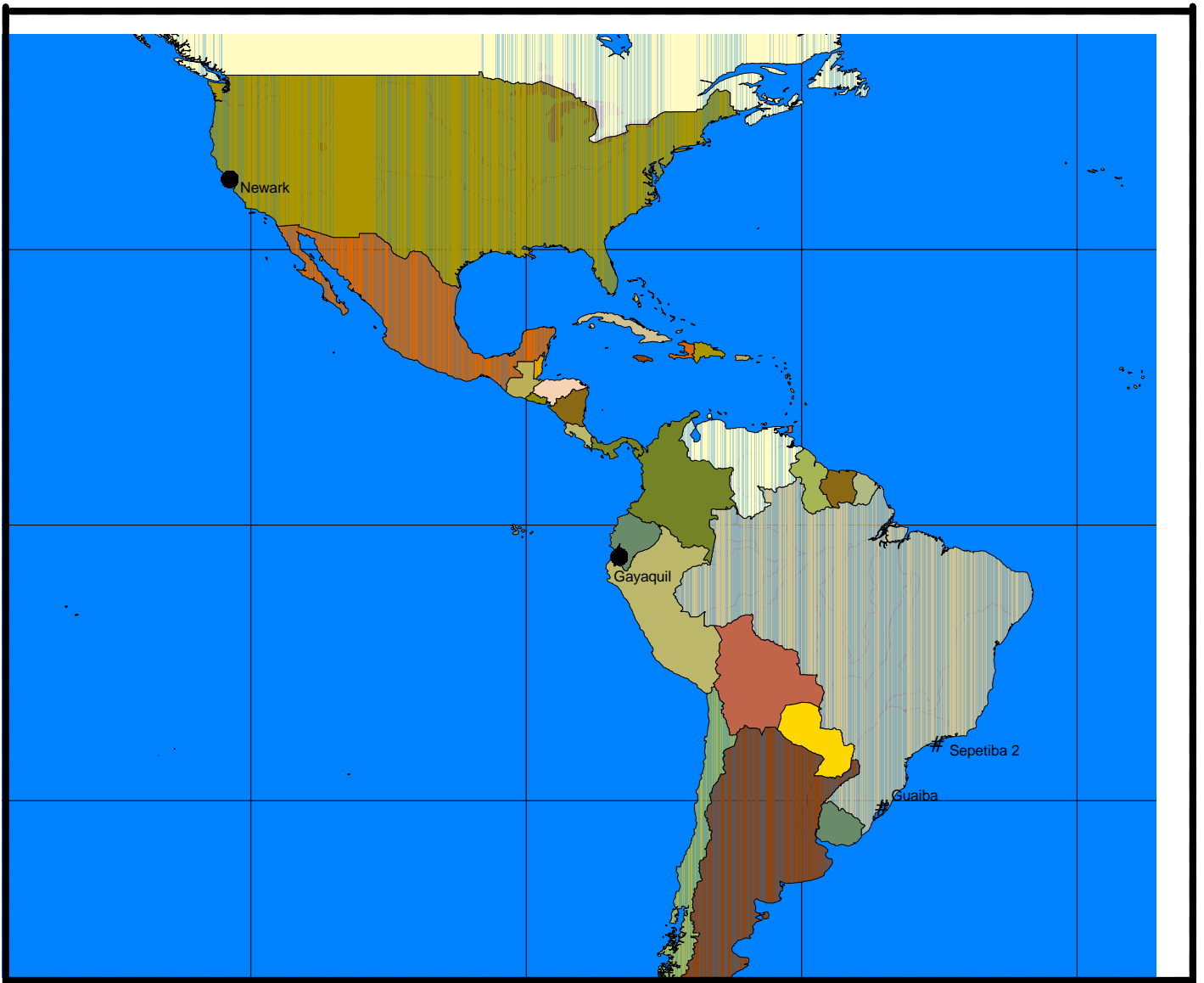
EAST AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN



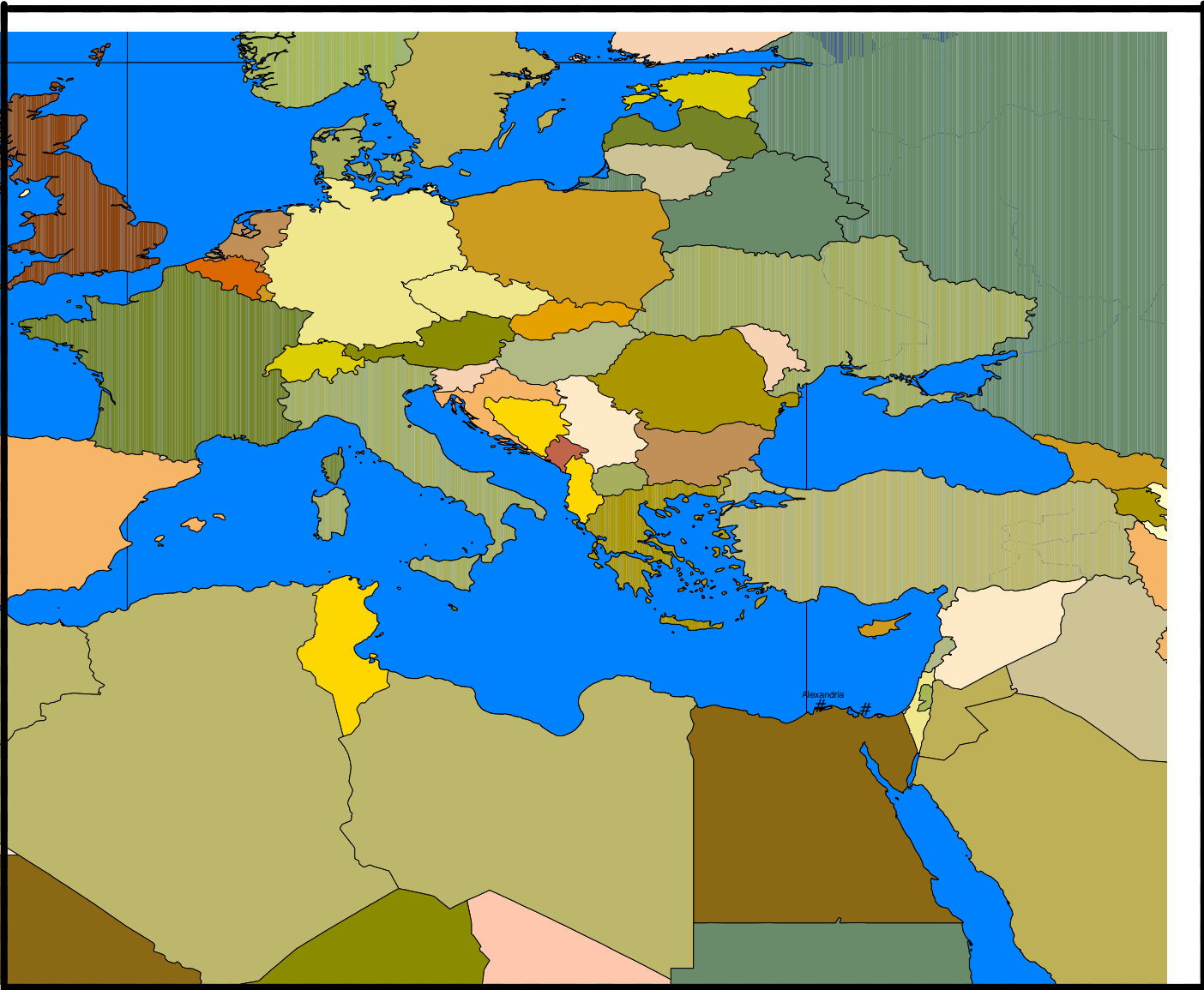
WEST AFRICA



NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA



MEDITERRANEAN SEA



* * *

