



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.975
1 October 2000

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Third quarterly report (July to September 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 July and the end of September 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, South America, West Africa and East 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, four crew members were assaulted and injured, at least twenty-one crew members were taken hostage and one ship sank.

4 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,920, an increase of 117 since 30 June 2000.

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)."

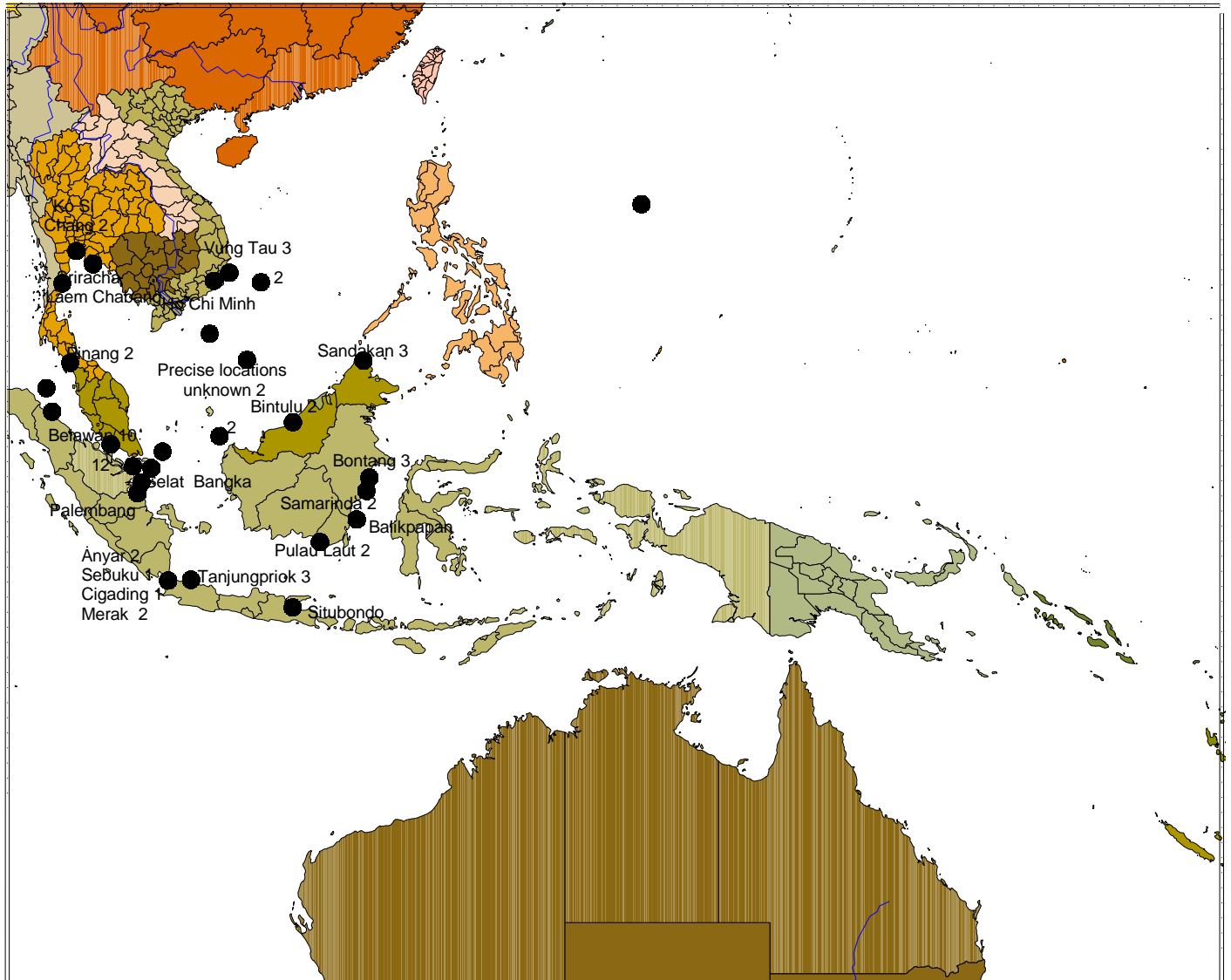
ANNEX 1

MSC/Circ.975

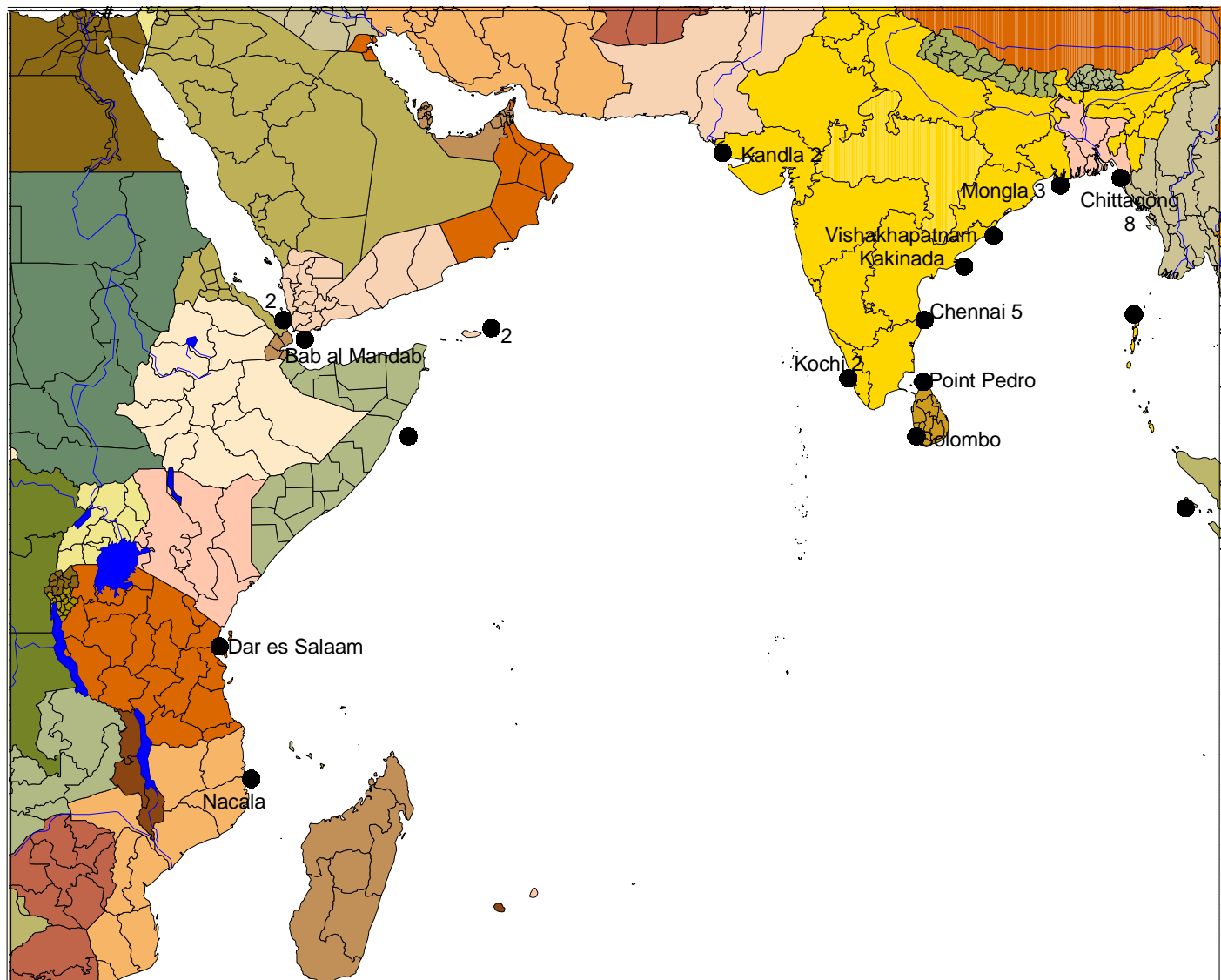
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2000

		FAR EAST		INDIAN OCEAN	AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA
		MALACCA STRAIT	SOUTH CHINA SEA		EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA	
Location of incident							
	In international waters	14	10	3	4		
	In territorial waters	9	27	21	1	2	6
	In port areas	3	6	4		4	3
Status of ship when attacked							
	Steaming	14	13	3	3	1	
	At anchor or on berth	12	30	25	2	5	9
	Not stated						
Number of persons involved in the attack							
	1-4 persons	6	9	6	1	1	2
	5-10 persons	13	9	8	2	1	1
	More than 10 persons			1	1		1
	Not stated	7	25	13	1	4	5
Consequences to the crew							
	Actual violence used against crew	7	5	8	1	2	3
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	14	16	6	3	2	
	Ship missing						
	Ship hijacked				1		
	None/not stated	5	22	14		2	6
Weapons used by attackers							
	Guns	2	1	4		1	1
	Knives	11	8	2	1	1	2
	Other	2	1	1			
	None/Not stated	11	33	21	4	4	6
Parts of the ship raided							
	Master and crew accommodation	9	3	1	1	3	1
	Cargo area	8	7	6		1	3
	Store rooms	2	17	13	1		4
	Engine room		2				
	Not boarded	7	14	8	3	2	
	Not stated						1
Total number of incidents reported per areas		26	43	28	5	6	9
Total number of incidents reported				117			

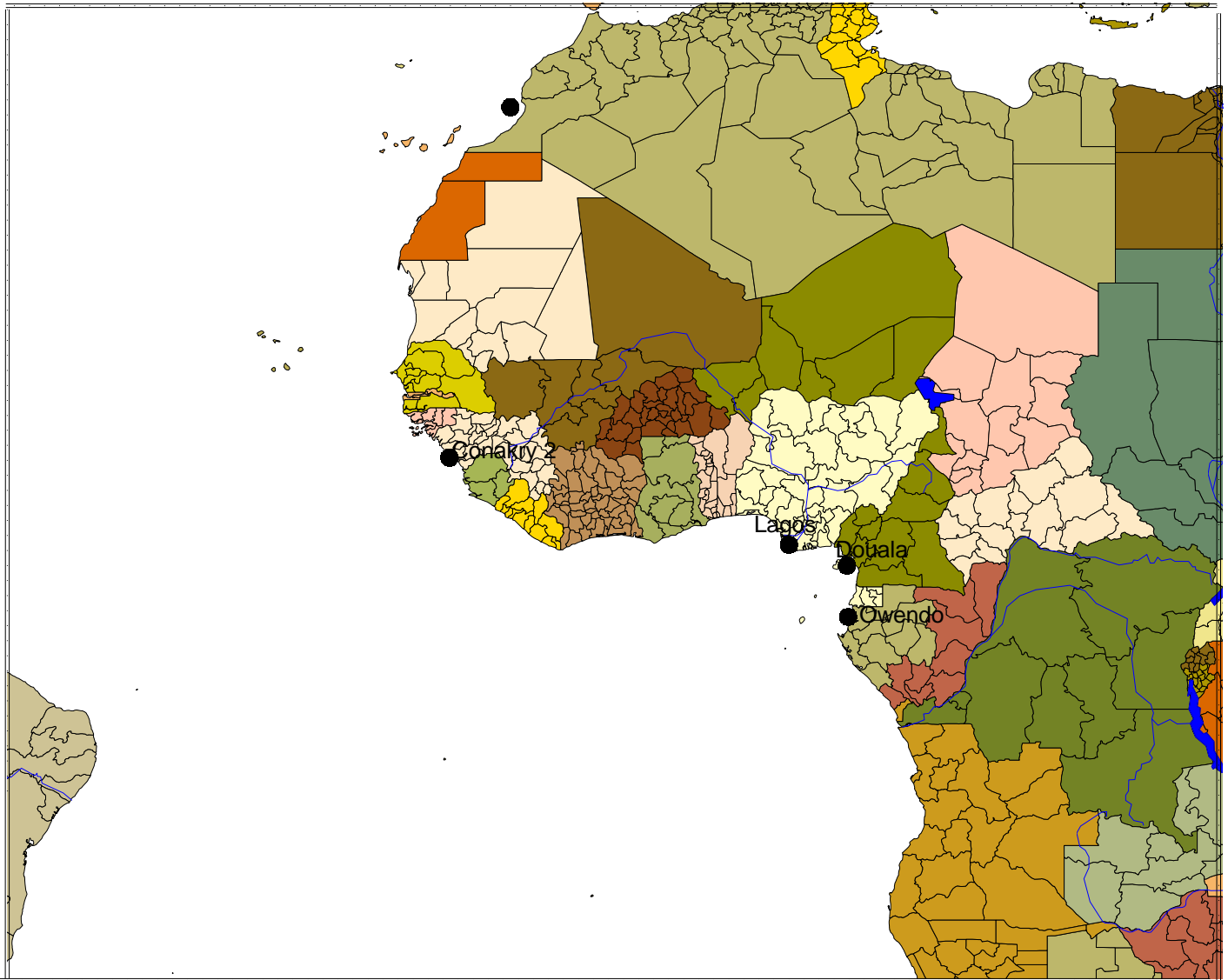
FAR EAST, SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



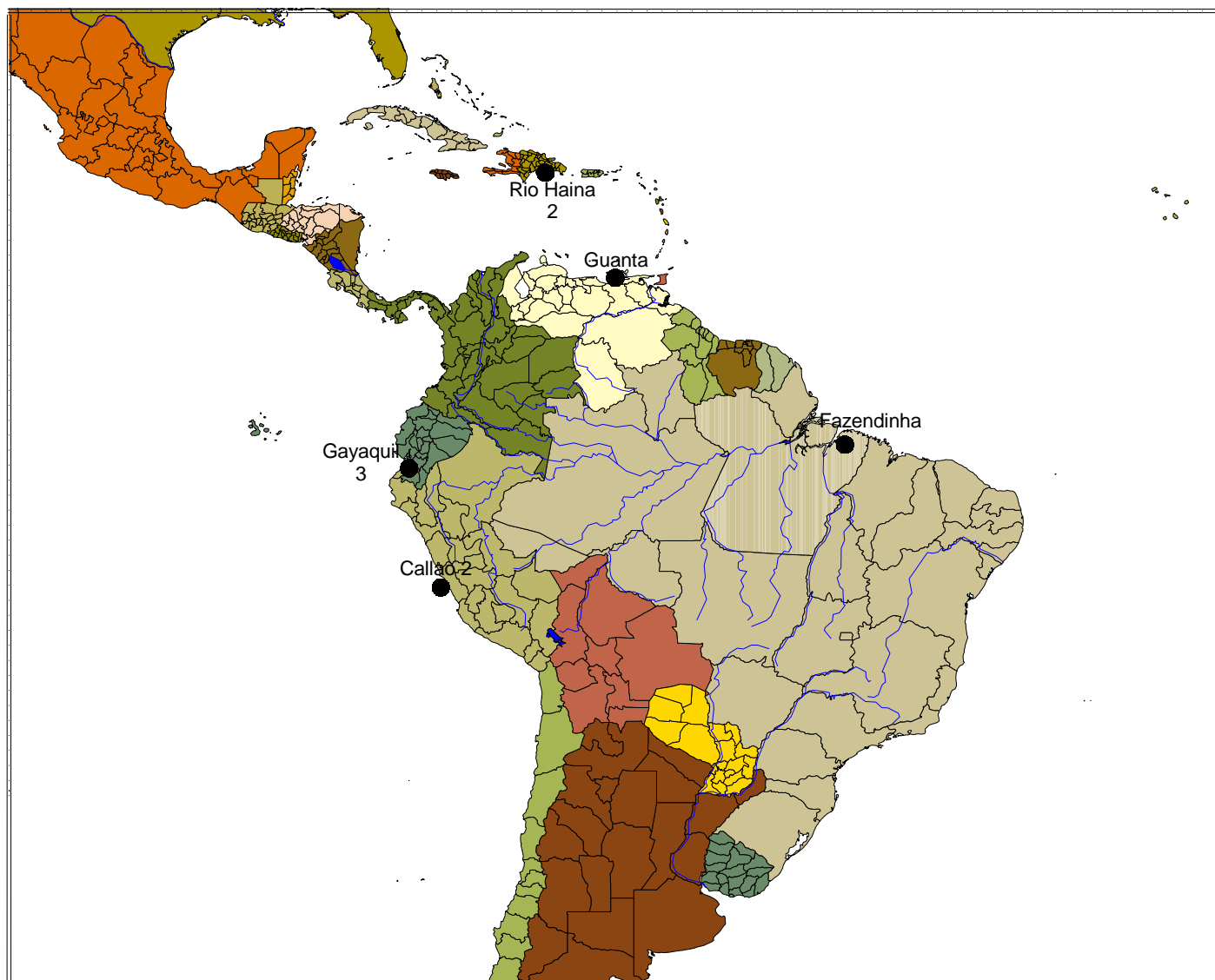
INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



WEST AFRICA



SOUTH AMERICA



* * *

Piracy and armed robbery incidents reported during the period 1 July to 30 September 2000
 (Presentation based on the date of reporting)

