



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.986
1 January 2001

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Fourth quarterly report (October to December 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 ships² 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 2000, and a regional analysis thereof.

3 The areas most affected over the period under review were, once again, the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Malacca Strait, East Africa, South America and West Africa. Most of the attacks were reported in territorial waters while the ships were at anchor or on berth.

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)."

² "Armed robbery against ships" is defined in the draft Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (MSC/Circ.984) (article 2.2) as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."

4 During the period under review, fifty-five passengers and crew were killed, twenty persons were assaulted and injured; and, at least seventy passengers and crew were taken hostage. Three ships were hijacked and, in five occasions, explosive devices were used against ships. In several of the incidents reported, the crews were violently attacked by individuals or groups of two to ten persons carrying guns or knives.

5 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 2,129, an increase of 202 since 30 September 2000.

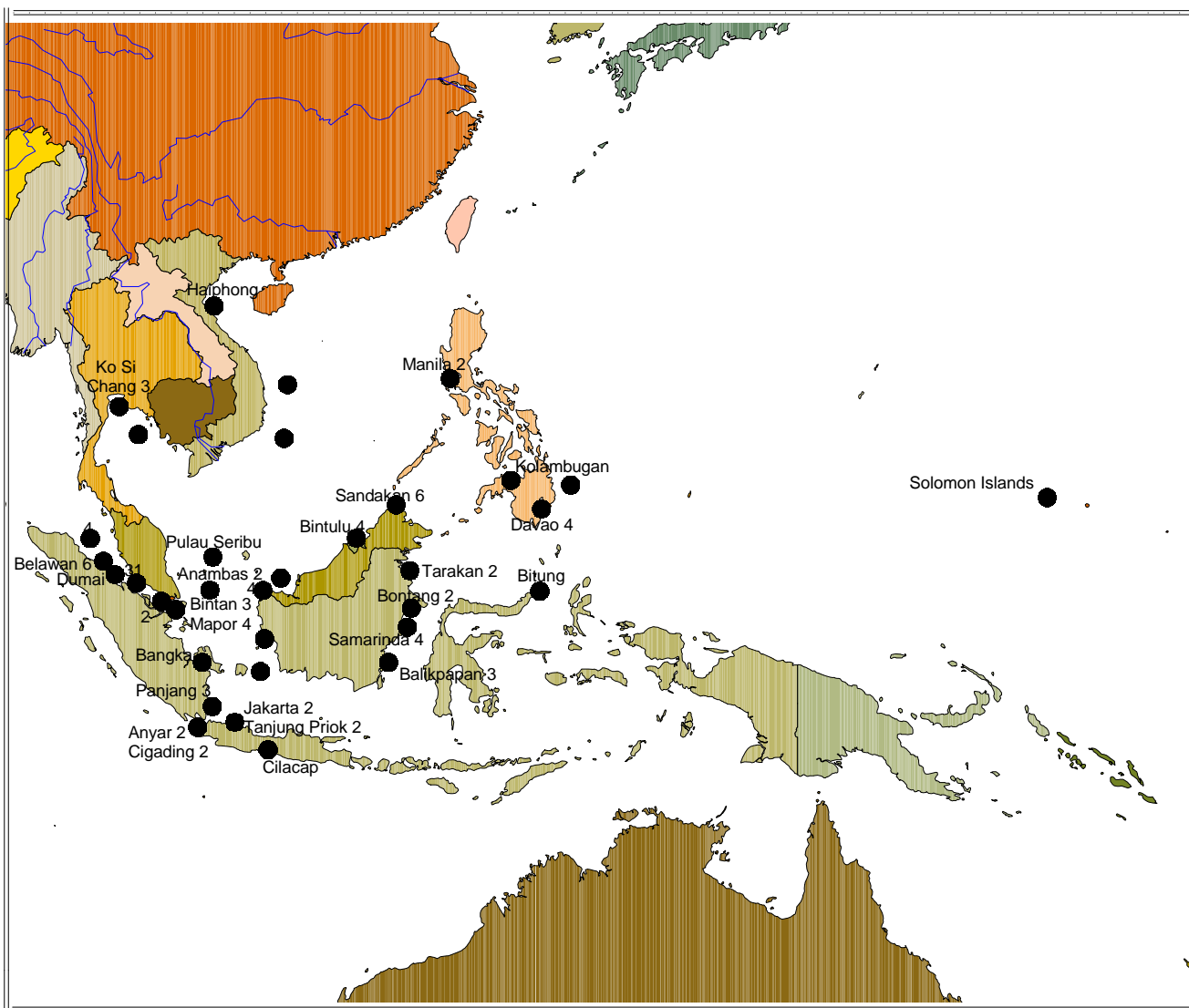
ANNEX 1

MSC/Circ.986

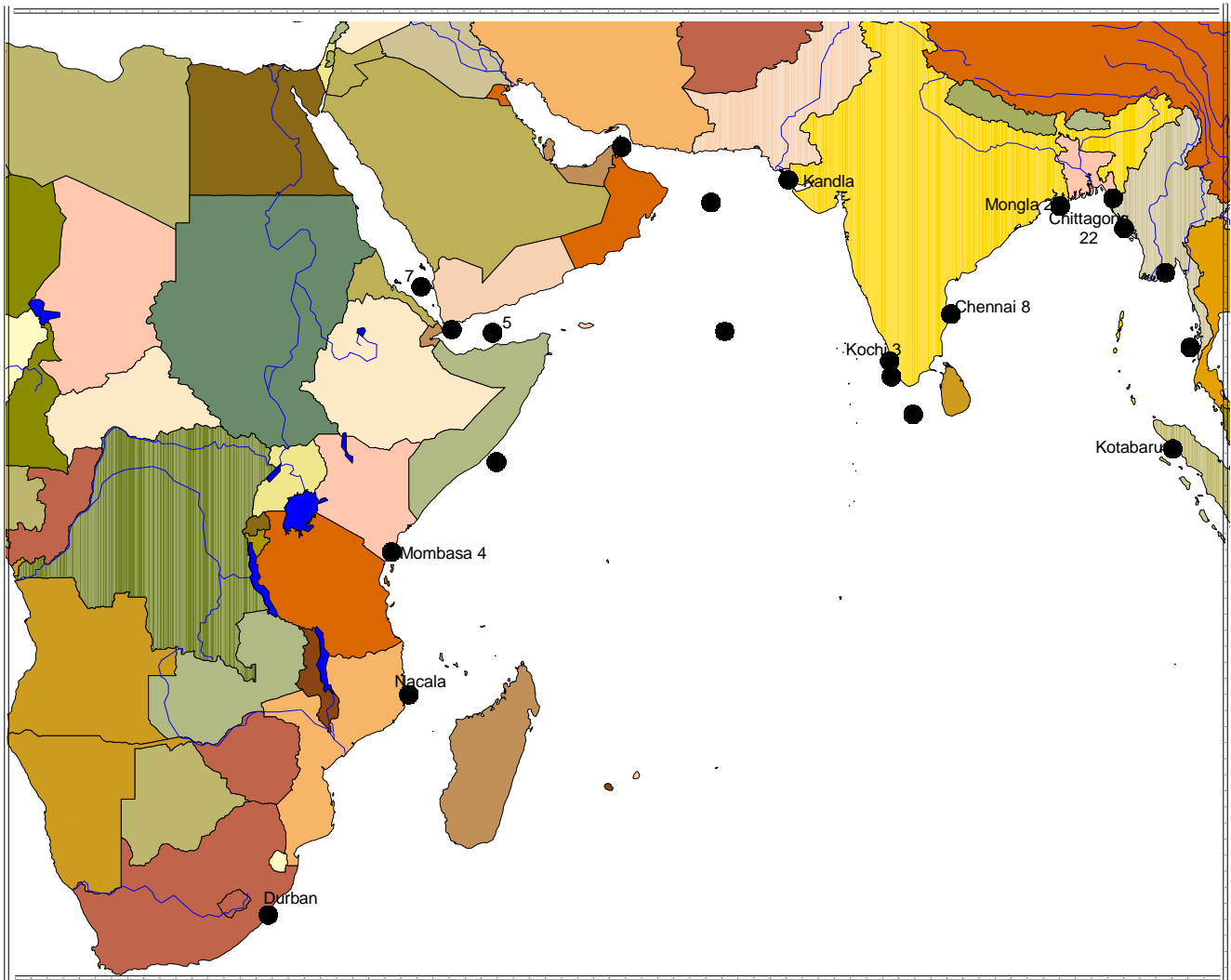
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2000

		FAR EAST			AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA
		MALACCA STRAIT	SOUTH CHINA SEA	INDIAN OCEAN	EAST AFRICA	WEST AFRICA	
Location of incident							
	In international waters	30	11	4	13		3
	In territorial waters	10	40	25	3	7	8
	In port areas	4	17	15	5	3	4
Status of ship when attacked							
	Steaming	31	18	8	15	1	6
	At anchor or on berth	11	44	35	6	9	8
	Not stated	2	6	1			1
Number of persons involved in the attack							
	1-4 persons	9	16	11	6	4	7
	5-10 persons	15	18	16	3	2	3
	More than 10 persons	7	6	6	3		1
	Not stated	13	28	11	9	4	4
Consequences to the crew							
	Actual violence used against crew	9	9	6	1	1	3
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	11	14	11	8	2	5
	Ship missing						
	Ship hijacked		1				2
	None/not stated	24	44	27	12	7	5
Weapons used by attackers							
	Guns	4	3	3		2	7
	Knives	10	17	14	3	1	1
	Other	1	6	2	1	1	1
	None/Not stated	29	42	25	17	6	6
Parts of the ship raided							
	Master and crew accommodation	14	5	2	1	2	2
	Cargo area	2	4	2			1
	Store rooms	6	8	24	3	5	5
	Engine room	1	23		1		
	Not boarded	19	22	12	16	2	4
	Not stated	2	6	4		1	3
Total number of incidents reported per areas		44	68	44	21	10	15
Total number of incidents reported		202					

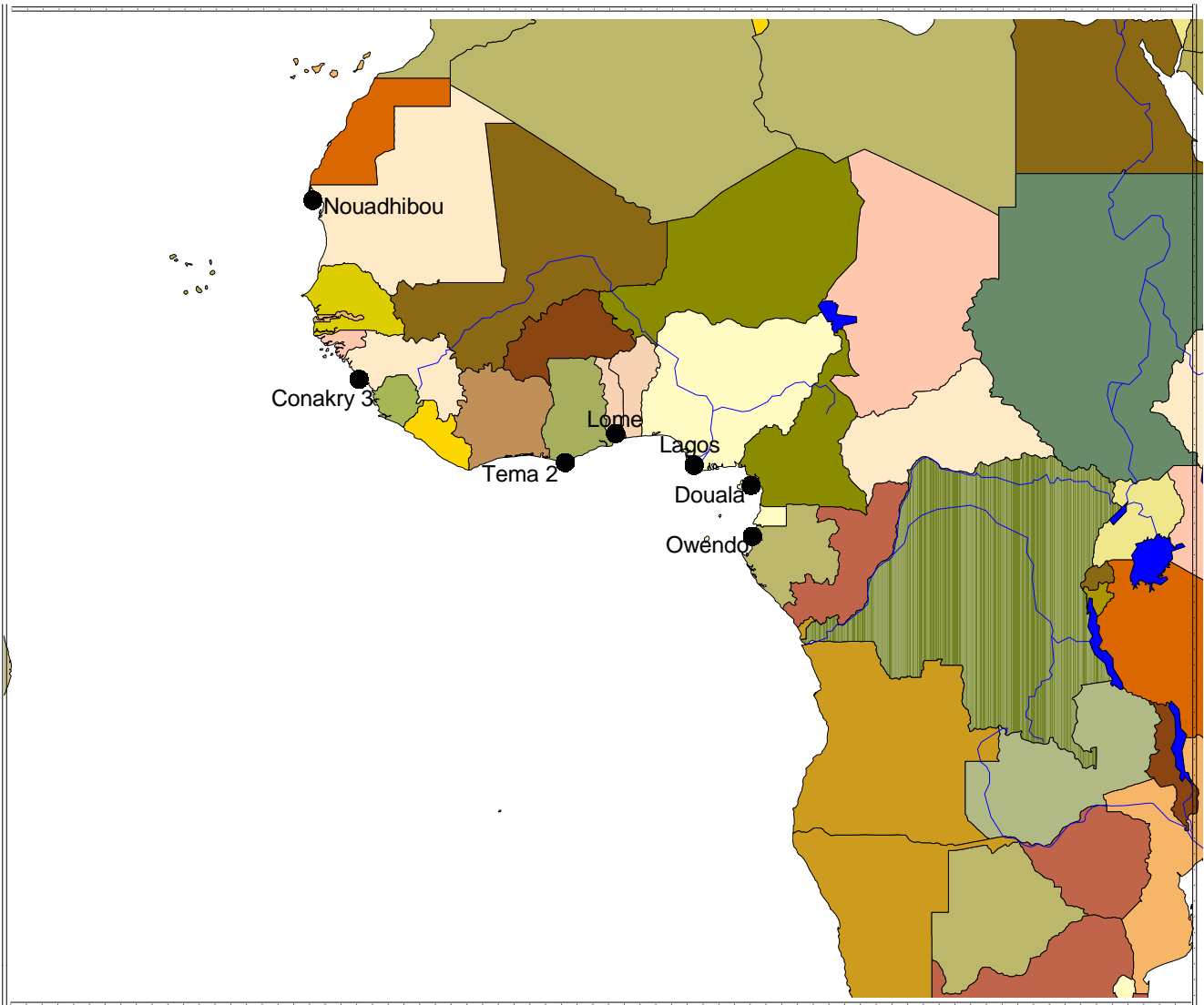
FAR EAST, SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



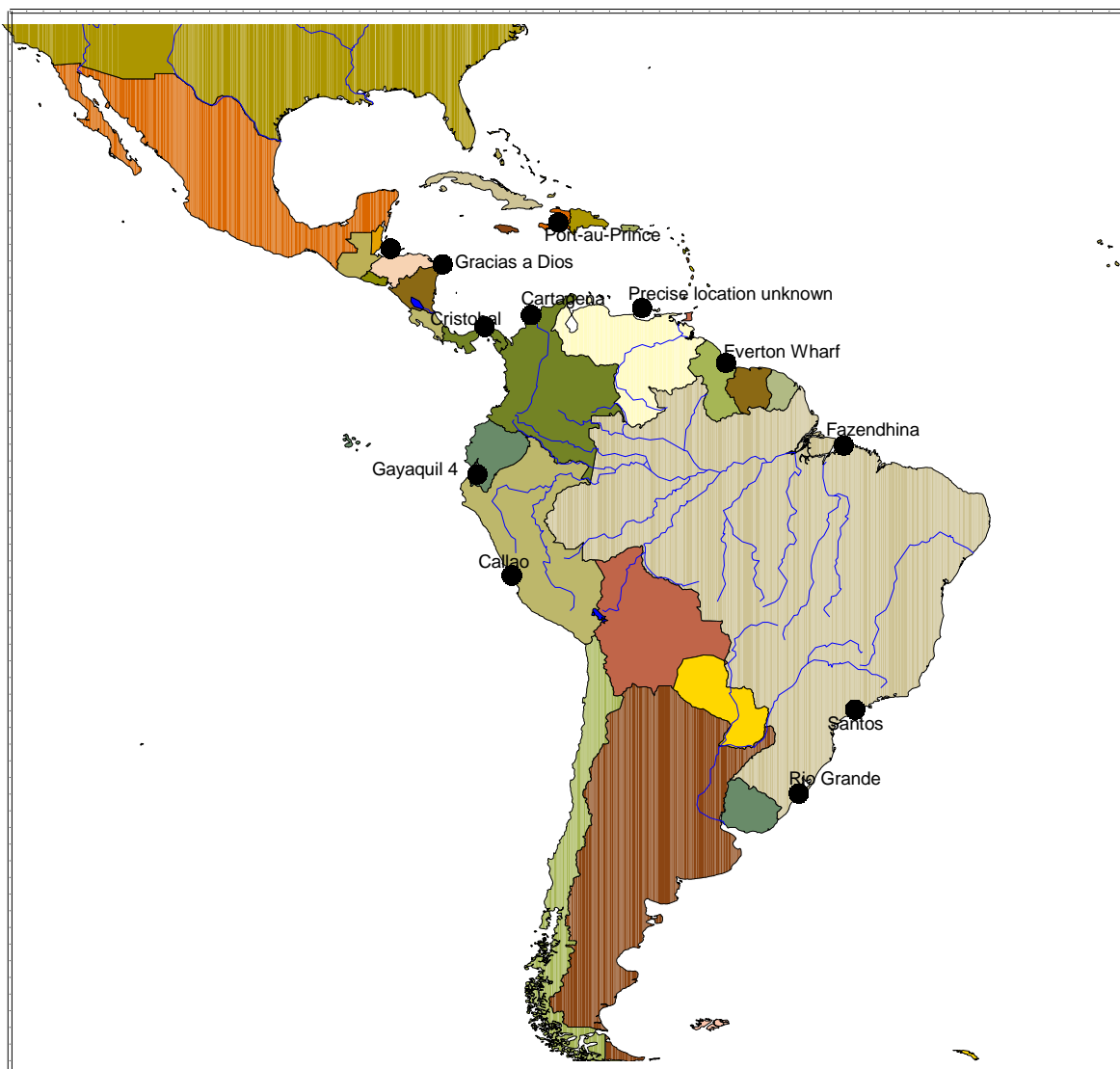
INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



WEST AFRICA



SOUTH AMERICA



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Piracy and armed robbery incidents reported during the period 1 October to 31 December 2000
(Presentation based on the date of reporting)

