



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.993  
31 March 2001

## REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

### First quarterly report (January to March 2001)

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 piracy<sup>1</sup> and armed robbery against ships<sup>2</sup> 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 reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships which occurred between 1 January and the end of March 2001, and a regional analysis thereof.

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

4 During the period under review, seventeen crew and one armed robber were killed, seventy-four persons were assaulted and injured; and at least twenty-two crew were taken hostage. One ship was hijacked and, in two occasions, explosive devices were used against ships. In several of the incidents reported, the crew 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 2,226, out of which 50 occurred during the first quarter of 2001.

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<sup>1</sup> "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)."

<sup>2</sup> "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:

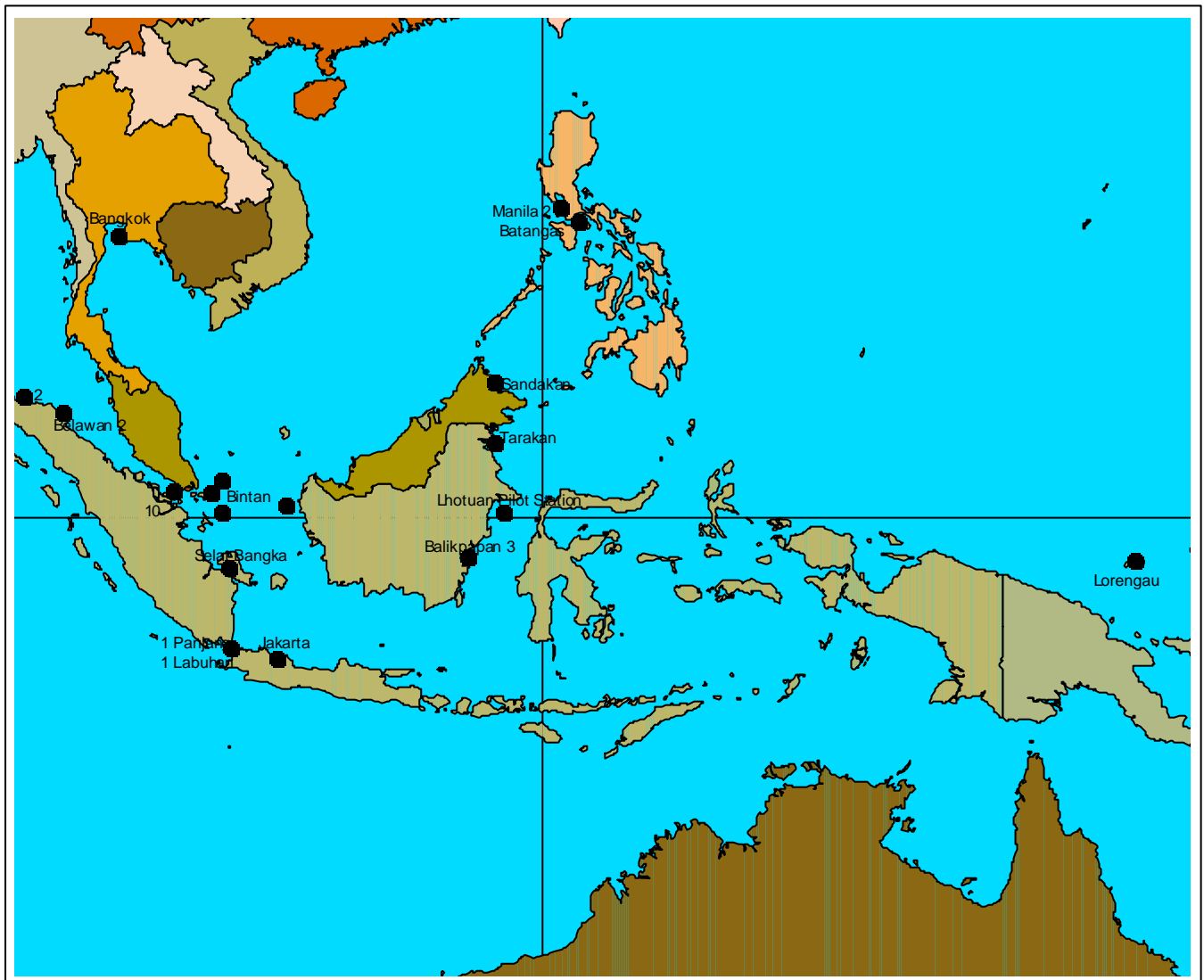
"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."



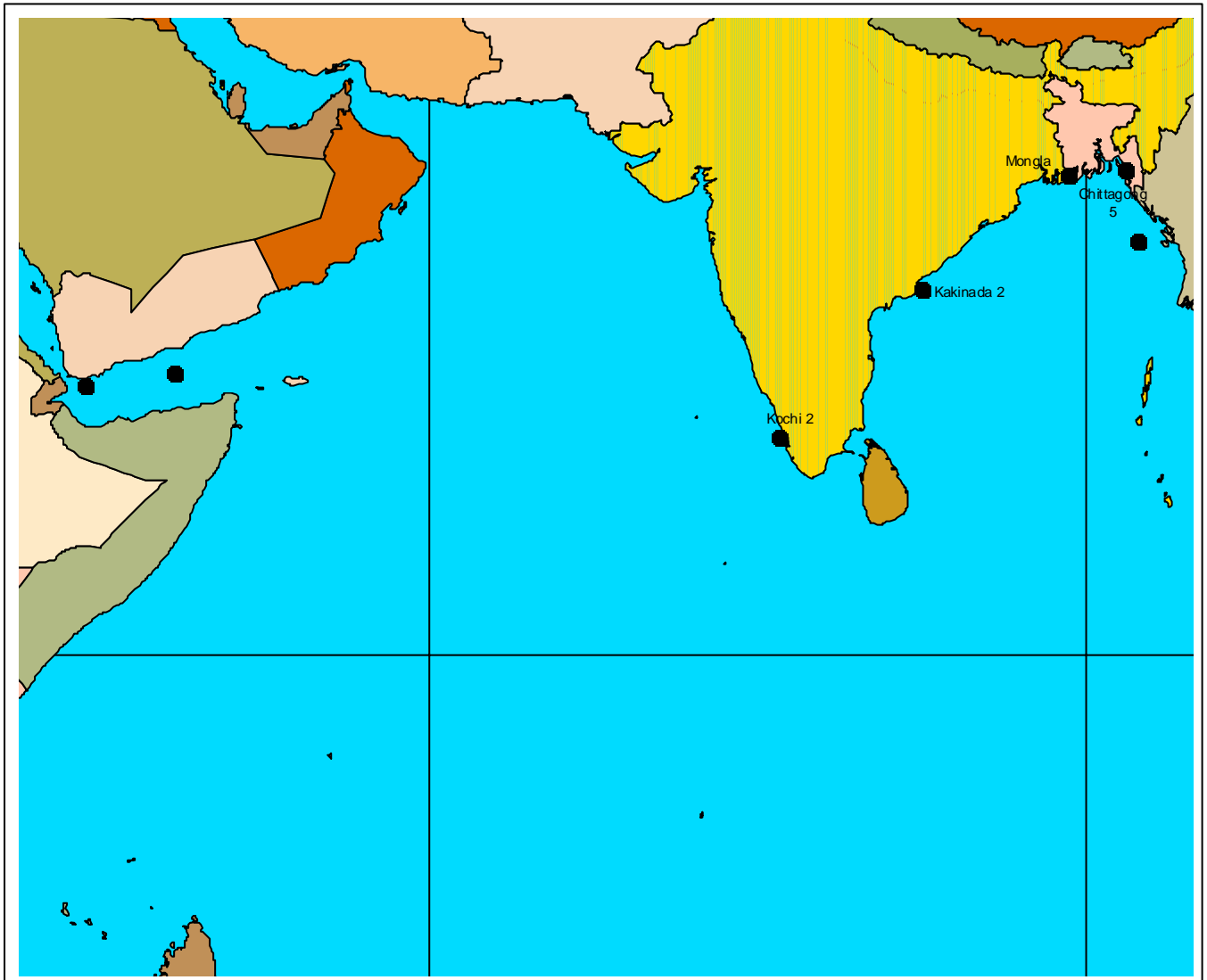
**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS  
REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2001**

		FAR EAST			INDIAN OCEAN	WEST AFRICA
		MALACCA STRAIT	SOUTH CHINA SEA	OTHER FAR EAST		
<b>Location of incident</b>						
	In international waters	10	2		2	
	In territorial waters	3	10	1	11	2
	In port areas	1	6			2
<b>Status of ship when attacked</b>						
	Steaming	11	7	1	5	
	At anchor or on berth	3	11		8	4
	Not stated					
<b>Number of persons involved in the attack</b>						
	1-4 persons	2	3		3	2
	5-10 persons	2	3		2	
	More than 10 persons		2	1	1	
	Not stated	10	10		7	2
<b>Consequences to the crew</b>						
	Actual violence used against crew	2	3	1	1	
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)	8	6		6	2
	Ship missing					
	Ship hijacked					
	None/not stated	4	9		6	2
<b>Weapons used by attackers</b>						
	Guns		1	1	1	
	Knives	1	1		1	2
	Other	1	2			
	None/Not stated	12	14		11	2
<b>Parts of the ship raided</b>						
	Master and crew accommodation	4	2			
	Cargo area	1	7	1	4	3
	Store rooms	1	3		3	1
	Engine room		1			
	Not boarded	8	5		6	
	Not stated					
<b>Total number of incidents reported per areas</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total number of incidents reported</b>				<b>50</b>		

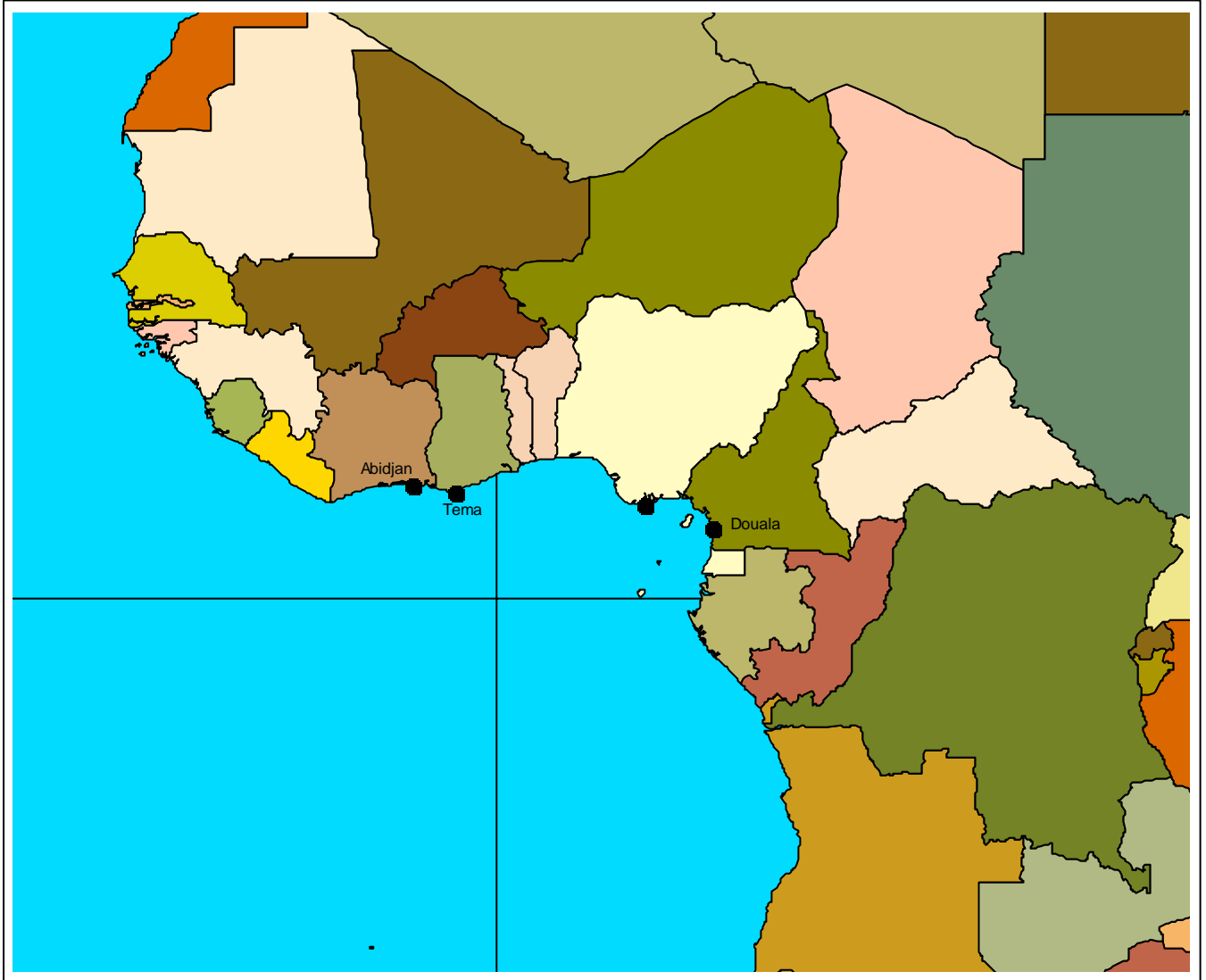
### FAR EAST, SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



**INDIAN OCEAN**



WEST AFRICA



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Piracy and armed robbery incidents reported to have occurred during the period 1 January to 31 March 2001

