

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Since the world had entered the nuclear age, the international community had struggled to restrain the spread of the nuclear weapons. United States is one of the country as the main promotor of the non-proliferation agenda. In the implementation, Iran and Israel become the source of international debate for non-proliferation agenda. Iran got serious consequences for the less transparency about its nuclear programs and forced to accept the additional constraints in order to build the confidence toward international community. In contrast, Israel who was known for pursuing nuclear weapon capability since 1960 remained free from any meaningful international pressure (Kerr, 2016).

U.S. gave different attitudes in responding toward Israel and Iran nuclear weapon program. United States accumulated support from UN Security Council and the European Union to stop nuclear activities in Iran, but they initially allowed Israel to possess the nuclear weapon. As the closest ally, U.S. did not urged Israel to be part of the non-proliferation regime or urged Israel to submit its nuclear program to international inspection. While the United States always underlined the importance of the universality of NPT as long term goal, but they also deferred any efforts to urged

Israel on this matter. Many observers see the U.S different attitudes has weaken the international non-proliferation agenda (Steinbach, 2009).

Israel had been maintaining the policy of ambiguity over its nuclear program for more than 40 years. The policy could last until now is due to the support from the United States that backing up by the Israel's policy. The reason why United States supported Israel's nuclear weapon program instead of Iran's is because of several considerations. The considerations include international context, domestic politics, and economic and military capability.

From the international context, Iran's pursuing nuclear weapon capability is seen as a threat to the U.S interests and the existence of Israel as the U.S. strategic partner in the Middle East. Since the Iranian Islamic Revolution in 1979, U.S. was no longer considered Iran as its strategic partner. The revolution caused the most degraded U.S.-Iran relationship. Iran also supported armed hostilities toward Israel and U.S. troops that made Iran become their biggest enemy in Middle east. Thus, the biggest U.S support had been given to Israel politically, economically, and militarily. Both United States and Israel also see nuclear weapon essential for their own security but it will be a critical danger if it is acquired by their enemies (Cook & Roshandel, 2009).

From the domestic politics, the lobby from AIPAC has made the U.S. governments place the considerable importance on the maintenance of a close and supportive relationship with Israel. They have influenced almost the entire aspects of the U.S. domestic politics such as in bureaucracy level, partisan, and mass media. The

Lobby has succeeded in shaping the core elements of the U.S.-Middle East policy. They unceasingly urge the U.S. government to eradicate Iran's nuclear program, weaken the Iranian power, and run the foreign policy which is beneficial for Israel. The pro-Israel lobby in the Congress also has sufficient power to prevent any party from raising the discussion about Israel's nuclear weapons program (Smith, 2014).

From economics and military capability, U.S. has sufficient sources of funds and military power to support Israel. This is due to the fact that Jews run majority of U.S. economic sector and U.S. also rely on the Israel military technology. The majority of the U.S. financial services are essentially a Jewish franchise. From the Federal Reserve, American banks, and other financing industries are owned by Jewish-American people. In military, Israel becomes a major supplier of defense articles to the U.S. military. Israel is United States' most sophisticated and experienced partner in rocket and missile defense. Israel has become a leading innovator in a number of U.S critical military issues (Eisenstadt & Pollock, 2012).