

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The US foreign policy is like the other foreign policy, which is to achieve national interest. The US foreign policy has been made since the establishment of the US until today and always evolves considering the situation and condition. A series of foreign policy that has been taken by the US can be characterized into: Isolationist, expansionist, neutralist, interventionist, ambition, and the new world order. Cuba is one of the countries that imposed the US foreign policy through diplomatic disengagement and economic embargo. The beginning of the US and Cuba relation is the beneficial relation. It started when the US successfully expelled Spain colonization from Cuba. The good relation changes to be worse when Fidel Castro appears as the revolutionary movement of Cuba. The US policy toward Cuba also changes when the US gives Cuba sanctions that imposed until today.

The US foreign policy was given to Cuba in the form economic embargo and disengagement relation. Its sanction had been going for five decades. The continuing of the US president up to ten times, from Eisenhower to George W. Bush, the main policy for Cuba remained in place. In that long period, the series of events occurred, following the US-Cuba relations. In addition the existence of the Soviet Union was between the US-Cuba relations, as the Cuban ally. Starting from the overthrow of Batista, the Cuban government leader was pro with the US was followed by the appearing of the revolutionary movement by Fidel, the bay of

pig invasion, the Cuban missile crisis, and the relation of Cuba with the collapse of the Soviet Union in the end. Among the events, some were the US effort to overthrow Fidel regimes and to transform Cuba to be more democratic and stable. However, all the effort that had been taken had not been managed to change Cuba. Until today, Cuba is still as a communist state and led by Castro.

However, there is a political shift in the end of 2014 that both countries intend to normalize their relations. President Obama and President Raul Castro gave an official statement about normalizing diplomatic relation on December 17th, 2014. In the beginning of Obama administration, the US seem to show friendly gesture toward Cuba. This is apparent from some significant changes. Like when the Democratic Party campaign in 2009 brought Obama, as the president's nomination for the US, told that they will allow Americans to visit their family in Cuba. It is fulfilled after Obama became the new US president in 2009. The US also compromised with the OAS in order to lift Cuba's suspension, that received by Cuba since 1962. Thus on June 3rd, 2009 Cuba can participate again as the member of the Organization of American States.

Eventually, in the end of 2014 the US and Cuba can reach the normalization relation. The real indicators are like: Obama and Raul gave an official statement about normalizing diplomatic relation with Cuba on December 17th, 2014, the US released alleged Cuban five and Cuba released Alan Gross, the US officially lifted its designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism on May 29th, 2015, the US re-opened its embassy on August 14th, 2015, and the US went further by easing restriction on travel and remittance in 12 categories of travel in

January 2015. By seeing after the long period of the US and Cuba has not a diplomatic relation, but then in Obama administration start to normalize their relation. From the facts above, there are several factors that influence on the foreign policy decision-making process of the US in normalizing relation with Cuba.

In the case of normalization between the US and Cuba, the most influence in taking a decision in the normalization between the US and Cuba is Obama's ideology of pragmatism. Previously, before Obama become the US president, in his campaign he has brought the term of *change*. He prefers to *engage* with other countries. He tends to use the multilateral approach in building a relationship with countries. Beside of Obama's pragmatism ideology that makes the normalization between the US and Cuba happens, Obama needs a lot of support from his government, his American people, and international support. So, Obama needs to explain of the important though for re-establishing the US and Cuba relation to them. In addition, the situation is supported by some condition. Indirectly the condition supports Obama's desire to make new relation with Cuba. The supporting condition is analyzed through William D. Coplin in the "Foreign Policy Decision-Making Process".

In the "Foreign Policy Decision-Making Process", there are three determinants of the condition that supports Obama's decision on normalization toward Cuba. By seeing the domestic politic, there is support from bureaucracy, parties, mass, and interest group influencers. The consideration of the US official is through reopening their embassies; Americans can travel to Cuba and do

business to expand their market. For the parties, the majority of them agree with normalization with consideration that re-establishing relation would bring the US companies to do business in Cuba and vice versa, and Cuba could be transformed into a democratic state, and there is political shift. For the mass, Americans support normalization, especially Cuban-American people. There is consideration that the condition before and today is different. Today, there are different supports that are caused by demographic and political shift. For the interest group, they press and lobby lawmakers to do normalization with Cuba, because it is a chance to increase their business. They are seeing Cuba as the new market target to get the flow of dollars. Most likely it can be used to give financial support for the party campaign.

By seeing the economic and military capabilities, the US needs economic improvement by making Cuba as a new market to cover the deficit and debt. In the military capability, the US military spending budget today can be allocated to the other sectors with the consideration that still guarantees the US security. The US can make a new relation with Cuba; including the US ex-enemies countries, by 'engage' with the profitable relationship, not as a threat for the US. By seeing the recent development in the Caribbean and Latin America, this time is an opportunity for the US to improve relation with these countries. There is potential there that can be the US opportunity, especially for economic and political stability in the western hemisphere. Based on the consideration of the three conditions, it can conclude that all the conditions support normalization with Cuba because there are economic benefits that can be taken.

The decision for the normalization of diplomatic relation between the US and Cuba in 2014-2015 are Obama's ideology of pragmatism, supported by the US conditions, that are analyzed through "Foreign Policy Decision-Making Process", by William D. Coplin. In addition, economic interest has a major role that leads the US to normalize relation with Cuba. It is a reason for domestic politic of the US support in normalization with Cuba. So, all of it makes the decision to normalize relations with Cuba happens this year.