

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

The clash between Cambodia and Thailand happened in 2008 after Cambodia successfully listed Preah Vihear as Cambodia's cultural site. Thailand believed that the 1962 ICJ ruling was invalid because it was based on the wrong map. Clashes were filled with violence and military contact around the temple, resulting in 30 death and 2000s displaced. To end the clash, in 2011 Cambodia asked the United Nations to help to mediate and end the dispute.

The strategy is done by the Cambodian government to solve the dispute can be analyzed with the concept of diplomacy. The effort can be considered as a preventive diplomacy in which Cambodia tried to prevent the dispute from emerging (before 2008) and to prevent the conflict from escalating (in 2011). The pre-2008 effort included the establishment of Joint Border Commission in 2000 to settle the dispute following the listing of Preah Vihear temple to UNESCO. The 2011 effort to prevent conflict from escalating was by arranging a football match between Cambodia and Thailand as a sign of the peaceful relationship between two nations.

Another concept to analyze this is multilateral diplomacy, where Cambodia utilize the multilateral instrument of the international organization to help to settle the dispute. This was because Cambodia's national capacity in terms of economy and military was weaker compared to Thailand, therefore to balance the condition Cambodia needed to use other parties. Cambodia also believed that international attention was in their favor because legally Preah Vihear was under Cambodian sovereignty.

The strategy of multilateral diplomacy included the mediation and facilitation by ASEAN. ASEAN as the organization covering both Cambodia and Thailand became the instrument of preventing the conflict from escalating any further. The norm and value of ASEAN also held the

conflicting parties to open the conflict to all-out war. Besides ASEAN, Cambodia also asked ICJ to solve the issue by reinterpreting the 1962 case. ICJ acted as arbitrator to decide the law regarding Preah Vihear to be obeyed by Cambodia and Thailand.

This Preah Vihear case shows another example of a dispute resolved via diplomacy. Even though there were some military clashes regarding the dispute but fortunately it did not escalate into an all-out war between the two countries. The writer believes that this is due to the fact that both countries are restricted by the agreement of the international community. The role of the regional and international organization is very strong is limiting a certain conflict to spill into a broader clash.

The case of conflict resolution via regional and international diplomacy could also be implemented in other cases as well. There were numerous international incidents which are still ongoing even today, namely in the Korean peninsula, Western Sahara, Cyprus, Tibet, and other parts of the world. Some had escalated into a war, while others were still in a form of territorial dispute. The role of the regional and international organization needs to be more utilized to face those issues and to end the conflict as soon as possible.

This thesis can be used as an additional source for one who looks for an example of the success of diplomacy. This also can be added as a study case from Southeast Asian countries and as an issue of territorial and identity issue. However, the writer believes that future studies regarding this particular case should be improved by including more matters such as the role of individuals/leaders and regime of both countries, the economic, social, and political condition of the regime, the role of external influences, and so on. Therefore, future studies could be elaborate more about this Preah Vihear temple dispute.