

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In The United States of America's point of view, Indonesia is a country with strategic area and potentials that can be explored and it becomes the key for Indonesia to attract other country to create a relation with Indonesia at many aspects including security, politics, socio-cultural, or even economy aspect. Indonesia is comprised of more than 17,000 islands and it makes Indonesia as the biggest archipelago country on earth. It also includes resources which nowadays becoming international needs, by other countries. Moreover, Indonesia also known as the most populous country in the regional of Southeast Asia is populated by more than 254 million people representing its distinct cultures. It makes Indonesia becomes one of the most diverse country on the world.

Information Resource Center is part of The United States Embassy in Indonesia. It functioned in order to spread out The United States information and cultures. Information Resource Center is considered as the most effective tools for communicating The United States policy and introducing citizens of Indonesia to American history, government, society, and values, according the primary data that the writer retrieve from interviewee which is the head of Information Resource Center in The United States Embassy, Indonesia. Information Resource Center exemplifies The United States commitment to free access to information. In its office, it has computers with the Internet and educational software, an excellent set of

reference books, audio/video materials, and other great resources. It also has a lending library of popular American fiction and a friendly staff to serve everyone who is interested in the United States. Information Resource Center is the primary source of informed commentary on the origin, growth and development of The United States society, politics, economics and culture and a major tool supporting The United States cultural diplomacy objectives.

The United States existence in Indonesia represented by The United Embassy and Consulate General become famous after it started its comprehensive partnership with Indonesia. Indonesian citizens which are known as moslem majority country causes contradictive thought with western thought, especially The United States. That triggers Indonesian citizens to have negative perception toward The United States, and further it will affect another United States mission toward Indonesia.

There are several perceptions turn into actions, such as protest directly to The United States Embassy and Consulate General by Indonesian citizens. It happened not only once, but repeated with certain issues such as, the protest toward The United States attack to Islamic countries like Palestine and the protest toward monopoly of Indonesian natural resources and others. The other form of those negative perceptions also reflected in both online or offline. The information include words which persuade people to have similar voice to any United States missions toward Indonesia.

The president Barrack Obama known as the leader which tend to use soft power rather than hard power or military use. Then, Information Resource Center (IRC) is established and it works under The United State Embassy and Consulate General in Indonesia. It is an active resource center which purpose is to shape and build positive perception among Indonesian citizens toward The United States. Information Resource Center responsibilities area are spreading information about The United States, introducing The United States cultures and values, providing The United States living for Indonesian citizens including professional such as governmental staffs and others important actor of Indonesian government, serving Indonesian citizens with English teaching and learning and also maintaining those people which included in The United States programs especially for those Indonesian citizens to also supports Information Resource Center (IRC) missions in Indonesia.

As it progressing, Information Resource Center brings several changes on Indonesian citizens even it is not that significance. There are several citizens started to have similar voice and positive perception toward The United States, including political actor, for example Syaifullah Yusuf (East Java Vice Governor) who speaks upon media to encourage people that The United States can be a good example for social living and also its democracy. He is also one of Indonesian citizens who was given the opportunity by Information Resource Center to living experience in The United States.

The writer assumes that Information Resource Center (IRC) is effective as The United States Cultural Diplomacy toward Indonesia. It proved the effective way in shape or build positive perception among Indonesian citizens through its programs which conduct The United States cultures and values.