

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Thailand and Cambodia are neighboring countries in Southeast Asia share 798 kilometers long common border and basically a common culture and a history of dispute between them. The main dispute regards territorial sovereignty over the area of ancient Brahmanic Temple named Preah Vihear (following the Khmer language of Cambodia) or Phra Viharn (following the Thai language), located between the Preah Vihear Province of Northeastern Thailand.

The dispute faced by both countries is not only in the border term, but since 2009 the relations between two country worsened by the appointment of Thaksin Shinawatra as Cambodia's economic adviser. In the beginning, Thaksin Shinawatra as Former Thailand Prime Minister got the coup on 2006 and has sentenced two years jail for corruption case. Therefore, Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen, appointed Thaksin as Cambodia's economic adviser, and it was allegedly becomes the root of this problem.

To avoid this appointment, Thai government planned to contact the Cambodian government about extradition of Former Prime Minister. But, Cambodia government considers that they would not extradite Thaksin Shinawatra. As the consequences, Thai government had recalling their ambassadors from Cambodia as a

The appointment of Thaksin Shinawatra as Cambodia's economic adviser becomes a mean for Cambodia to get their national interest. Thaksin as Former Thai Prime Minister has capabilities in economic sector; however, since he become Thai Prime Minister, the economic development of Thai is expected to grow year by year. Therefore, through this appointment, Cambodia expects Thaksin to use his ability in economic sector to develop economic in Cambodia.

Cambodia considers that there will be economic improvements when Thaksin gets involved. It is the fact that Thaksin is an expert since he has made a very efficient economic system in Thailand until the country becomes one of the states having strong economy in Asia. He does have the knowledge, and he is willing to share with Cambodia, so solutions to boost economy will be likely to come into existence. More importantly, Thaksin is a billionaire having many economic partners from various countries and he could ask for help from his friend, or even convince them to spend their money operating business in Cambodia. Thus, by having his presence, Cambodia really would possibly stand a chance to have more foreign investments.

Besides, Thaksin Shinawatra is a big investors in Cambodia and also in 2004 Thailand invested about 135,152,350 million US Dollar under Thaksin administration. There are several companies invested in Cambodia under Thaksin's Administration, such as, Mfone Company Limited (Mfone), Siam Cement Group of Thailand, STC Group or Capital Rice Co., Ltd., and Ratchaburi Electrical Generating Holding. Those companies are considering still have relations with Thaksin's Family.

The main issue of this conflict is about the Preah Vihear Conflict. Thaksin Shinawatra is one of political actors who have power to influence Thailand government. Since he got the coup on 2006, however, he still has power to influence the government through his party in Thailand Parliament. Hun Sen can gain assistance from Thaksin in dealing with the current Thailand government. Although Thaksin does not have military power, but he still has a powerful party and millions of Thais loving him who are willing to do what he wants them to. As Thaksin settles in Cambodia, he has chances to stay close to his supporters, which as a result as accelerates the anti-government movements in Thailand. Most vitally, his red-shirt supporters, the majority, have been actively assaulting Abhisit's government.

Besides, his power also came from the next Prime Minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, however, since Thaksin resigned as Cambodia's Economic on August 2010, his power tends to the development of Pheu Thai Party (PTP) that successful to bring his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, as the new Thai Prime Minister. During her Administration, the main International political issues that want to resolve is Preah Vihear Temple conflict. There are several policies of Yingluck Shinawatra as Thai Prime Minister toward Preah Vihear Temple dispute between Thailand and Cambodia, like the withdrawal military troops from Preah Vihear Temple to demilitarized zone. At the same month, since Yingluck become Prime Minister, the decision of ICJ of 18 July 2011 decided that Cambodia and Thailand were expected to withdraw the military troops to the demilitarized zone. After the meeting between

Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen

the Thai government agreed to withdraw its troops from the Temple to the demilitarized zone. In that meeting, both countries agreed to extend the meeting through the Regional Border Committee (RBC) or the General Border Committee (GBC) to find a solution over the Preah Vihear Temple issue.