

Constitutional Aspect of the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka Foreign Policy Decision Making (1977-2016)

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Abstract: This paper mainly focuses on Constitutional Aspects of UK-Sri Lanka Foreign Policy Decision Making process between UK-Sri Lanka between 1977 to 2016. Major significant of selected period based on acceptance of 3rd party involvement as well as hegemonic power influence to bilateral relations. UK-Sri Lanka relations started from 1815 as a Colonial ruler and continued even after independence in 1948. During the post-Cold war era UK-Sri Lanka maintain close relationship within the international paradigm due to national interest. UK-Sri Lanka Political and Economic relations reach ripe movement during the ethnic conflict and United Kingdom (UK) became a major party for conflict prevention and negotiation process. However, escalation of ethnic conflict create more British involvement in Sri Lankan decision making process and Sri Lanka was granted large scale political and financial aid to maintain the peace process. During the last stage of humanitarian mission against the LTTE, UK became a more active party and their influence into Sri Lankan politic effected on both horizontal and vertical level decision making.

Keywords: Executive Power, Sri Lanka and UK Foreign Policy, Lobbying Groups, Post-war era.

I. INTRODUCTION

Historical Background

Ceylon (later Sri Lanka) chronological timeline dates back to 2500 BC with a greater history and with a developed civilization among rest of the countries in past. However, Ceylon was partly colonized by Portuguese, Dutch and British between 1505 to 1815. In 1815, British were able to conquer the last Kingdom of Ceylon called Kingdom of Kandy and they turned to be the colonial ruler for the next 133 years. During the colonial era, British transformed majority of local community into their political, economic and socio-cultural practices. Moreover, they introduced British political and economic system to Ceylon to maintain the colonial ties and gain more favourable benefits. After the World War II, British lost their hegemonic capabilities and status in world system. As a result of that and the rise of nationalism in colonies lead to a decolonization process. Monarchy of the United Kingdom (UK) decided to grant the dominance status to South Asian countries such as India, Pakistan and Ceylon. As a result of that, Ceylon was granted independence by UK on 04th February, 1948.

After the independence, Ceylon did not have proper international exposure since it was newly independent country. Therefore, Ceylon sought the assistance from its former colonial ruler to maintain external affairs and defence under well-known Ceylon - United Kingdom External Affairs and Defence Agreement in 1947. After the independence United Kingdom handled most of the overseas relations on behalf of Ceylon as mentioned in the agreement due to lack of capital and experience. In addition, as mentioned in 1947 External Affairs Agreement, Ceylon became a part of the Commonwealth of Nations in 1948. Majority of trading partners during that era were former British colonies. International trade was handled using British monetary unit called Sterling Pound. Therefore, Ceylon gain massive economic and social benefit by being with them.

During the cold war era, Ceylon established proper diplomatic channels with United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. In 1980 decade, UK-Sri Lanka political, economic and cultural relations marked a critical point due to beginning of ethnic war in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan ethnic conflict, which protracted internal war, made more of UK involvement into Sri Lanka. Black July incident in 1983, creates high pressure on bilateral relations and it indicates British sensitivity towards Sri Lankan community. However, British provided financial aid to develop the infrastructure facilities in Sri Lanka. Victoria dam project was financed by UK government and British Monarch Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip visited to Victoria site to monitor the progress.

During the last three decades, Sri Lanka was badly affected by ongoing internal war between The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). Under His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa, UK-Sri Lanka Bilateral Relations reached a new stage. Election manifesto called "Mahinda Chinthana 2005" mainly pointed out Sri Lankan foreign policy and relations in next coming decade. According to Mahinda Chinthana 2005; "... will continue Sri Lanka's Non-aligned foreign policy...committed to continue these friendly relations in the political, economic, defence, trade and cultural arenas."

II. METHODOLOGY

The research methodology comprises utilizing primary and secondary data. The primary data include government press release, speeches' and statements made by authorities to examine this context. The exploration of significant actor in decision making area also part of the research. Mainly, this research will focus on qualitative approach in social science arena to achieve the main objectives of research.

III. NEED OF THE STUDY

Conceptualizing of 'Foreign Policy Decision Making and Analysis' with its manifold manifestation and attributions has become a prominent academic challenge in the discipline of International Relations. In addition to that, systematic analysis into foreign policy decision making process brought abundant benefits in international relation arena which help to understand the reasons behind state actions. In that case, research will evaluate the general perspective of United Kingdom and Sri Lankan foreign policy decision making with special reference to tipping point. Further, research aims to identify and analyse the influence of primary and secondary players in decision making to develop the conceptual framework within foreign policy analysis.

IV. SRI LANKA-UK CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS OVER FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING

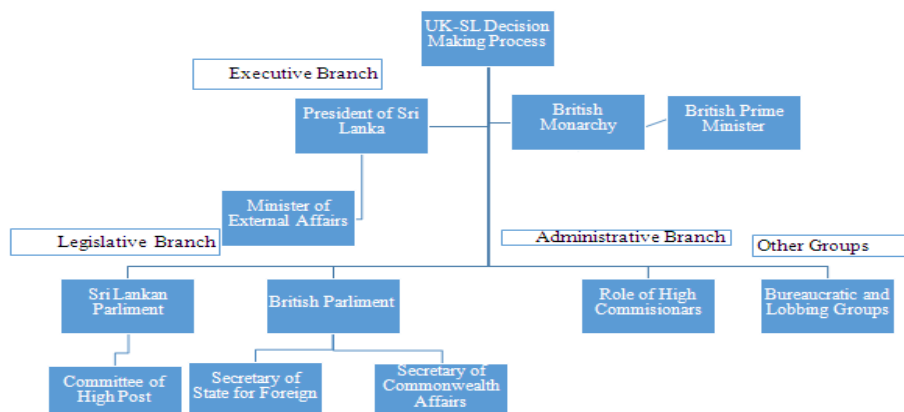
There is clear distinct between UK and Sri Lanka between the constitutional and foreign policy decision making hierarchy as well as governing and foreign policy decision making aspects. In Sri Lankan context, under the 1978 Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Executive President becomes the most important governing and ruling body of the country.

However, before the new constitution, Ministry of Foreign Affairs was introduced under the Cabinet Minister position to guide Sri Lankan foreign policy under the advice and the directions provided by President. Minister of Foreign Affairs became a key person in the government and in the international stage since the President cannot attend to all the international matters at a given time. In 1978, A.C.S. Hameed became the First Minister of Foreign Affairs and played major role under the J.R. Jayewardene's' Presidency and his successors continued the duty with more focus on regime and country interests. We can clearly identify that many parties are involved in the decision making process and have certain rights and duties to direct the foreign policy in Sri Lanka. However, due to the Executive Presidency, the role played by other personals and agencies became less valuable in modern era.

United Kingdom maintains the unwritten constitution based on "Parliamentary Sovereignty" principle and also the Executive Presidency. Therefore, all the governing practices based on traditions and implementation of traditions became more important in UK state system. Meanwhile, UK had favourable position over recent political trends while reflecting and adopting most suitable policies for the relative stability in British politics.

The major sources of the constitution is based on various statute, conventions, judicial decisions, treaties and government practices which are collectively considered as the British Constitution. In that case we can see British Constitution as uncodified constitution rather than as an unwritten one. According to the traditional practices, executive power will be practiced by the leader of the majority party whom elected through democratically. Therefore, the Parliament has absolute power to create or abolish any law in British system. In British context, three branches involve in the decision making process at different stages. In the next section I will evaluate the legal and practical norms between the decision making authorities such as Monarchy, President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Parliament, other public positions and agencies in UK-Sri Lanka relations.

Figure1: Decision Making Hierarchy



Role of Executive Branch in Foreign Policy Making

Sri Lanka and UK has different structure of Executive branches with different levels of powers. In Sri Lanka Executive President becomes the leader of the Executive branch with many powers in governing arena. In contrast, British Monarchy has ceremonial powers over foreign policy and executive related activities which significantly recognized by the governments and the international community. However, practical executive powers are vested on democratically elected Prime Minister and his Cabinet including Ministers and Secretaries.

Role of President in Foreign Policy Making

Under the Executive Presidency, President of Sri Lanka becomes the Head of the State and the Government under the constitutional provisions with the limitless power in his/her hand. President J.R. Jayewardene became the father of new American-French hybrid model constitution, and he was proud to say that the constitution was strong enough to lead the country in political scenario. President Jayewardene once said in a moment of vainglory, "Under the 1978 Executive Presidency, President can do anything except make man a woman and woman a man." In foreign policy decision making scenario, President becomes a key person since he/she is the Head of both Executive and of the Government, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces hence he/she become a key determiner of the War and Peace in national politics as well as in international arena. He/she also has the power to appoint the Prime Ministers, the members of the Cabinet, other Ministers including Minister of External/Foreign Affairs, to accept foreign High Commissioners/Ambassadors, to appoint Sri Lankan representatives in abroad such as all High Commissioners/Ambassadors and other relevant diplomats to maintain the necessary international and political relationships among the international commodities such as countries and organizations on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). President has absolute power in foreign policy decision making process with enough constitutional provisions to deter the 3rd party intervention on the foreign policy. President is the sole authority over appointing the secretaries of the ministries and the Presidential advisors and the monitoring members of Parliament for foreign ministry which gives a powerful position to the President in foreign policy decision rationale.

Over the last four decades, we can clearly identify the role of President has significantly increased in foreign relations and safeguarding the countries interest became the first priority in policy making process. Other important factor is deciding and balancing direction of foreign policy held by the President and meanwhile his representatives played major role on fulfilling the interest of country on that time. Leadership characteristic play a major role in foreign policy decision making process and the Executive President becomes the key in handling foreign policy rather the Minister of External/Foreign Affairs because of the constitutional power and government practices. Till the first to fifth Presidency, the role of President became most valuable to rational decision making except for few cases where the Minister of External/Foreign Affairs became a prominent in international relations through his/her personality and recognition of the international community. However, President has absolute right over all the decision making and foreign policy directions of Sri Lanka.

British Monarchy

British Monarchy was considered as one of the oldest and remaining Monarchy in western world. During the colonial era, British Monarchy was able to bring prosperity to British territories and her colonies as a rising actor in world. Therefore, British Monarchy is considered as "the empire on which the sun never sets". In modern day British Monarchy has become a symbolic agency which mostly prefer traditional values rather over political values. According to the governing practices, Monarchy is considered as the 'Head of the State' and the Monarchy including Royal family members represent British in many occasions. They have become a part of life in British nation and the key diplomats whom enlighten the British interest on abroad. The Monarchy has few powers on the British foreign policy decision making since he/she becomes a Head of the Commonwealth Organization and plays an important symbolic and unifying role as the Head of the one of the largest international organization in the world. Further, as a Head of the Commonwealth, British Monarchy becomes a symbolical Head of State for the Sovereign of 15 Commonwealth realms other than UK. Therefore, it becomes a symbol for the British and the Commonwealth foreign policy relations which can affect nearly 53 surrounding international governing bodies. Further, it became a symbol for uniting various ethnic, nationals into one aim and as an organization which promote peace, equality and democracy all over the world. Monarchy become a powerful foreign policy mechanism whom can generate more attention and recognition on world politics. In addition to that, Monarchy held privilege to lead few foreign related functions such as accepting foreign diplomats and envoys, etc.

Role of Prime Minister in Foreign Policy Making

The role of the Prime Minister on foreign policy decision making became more important since the World War II. Within the British system Prime Minister is considered as the Head of the Government and he/she is the leader of the party which has the majority of the parliament elected through a democratic election. According to Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield, Prime Minister hold a significant position within the Parliament and also within the government to direct the country into the prosperity, and to promote and secure the British interests in international system. Therefore, he handles the country foreign policy under the guidance given by

the British Monarchy. However, British Monarchy guidance became an advisory opinion which has no legal backing themselves to enforce. Prime Minister is the sole authority over decision making process in foreign policy. Under the Prime Minister power he became a person who can manage the relationship between Monarch and the Government as a whole and also the hiring and firing ministers including Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Further, all the bureaucrats were subject to Prime Minister. Leadership characteristics of the Prime Minister has mainly involved in decision making process. Appointing foreign diplomats with the guidance of the Monarchy comes under the Prime Minister. This right cannot be challenge.

When we examine the role of Prime Minister in foreign policy making, he has the duty to analyse the historical background of the country which it stands upon, the power elements deriving from it, the application of stage-by-stage; strategic politics and its impact on the foreign policy processes. In addition, Prime Minister also has responsibility to maintain the majority of the Parliament, interests of his party and the interests of external factors such as Diasporas, media and lobbying groups. Therefore, sometimes Prime Ministers' decisions may be hindered by the above factors. In next chapters I will evaluate external factors influencing on UK foreign policy decision making process which is completely different to Sri Lankan context.

In Sri Lankan context, political independence between Executive branch and the Legislation branch create more decision making sovereignty in policy implementation arena. Meanwhile, under the constitution, actions of President cannot be questioned in Court or the Legislative branch. President has no legal binding to justify his/her actions in legislative branch since he represents a different political branch with more legal favours (till 17th amendment).

Role of Minister of External/Foreign Affairs in Foreign Policy Making

The role Minister of External/Foreign Affairs was introduced in 1977 to maintain proper international relations. Therefore, Minister has a major and vital role to promote and maintain the international attitude towards country by maintaining, uninterrupted foreign policy awareness programme with the international system. Further, Minister has a responsibility to maintain the day to day activities at ministry policy planning and guiding process as well as to cooperate with proper channels and local diplomatic missions to avoid the policy contradictions in advance. Minister can represent the President in some official international governing bodies with the power of decision making right. However, under the constitutional provisions, minister act on behalf of the President and not behalf of the country in foreign policy decision making process. Therefore, the role of minister became a local administrator role for the countries decision making process and not the decision maker in certain aspects. But in recent history, minister personality became a key point to decide foreign attitude towards country since, his/her involvement in the international community made deep impact. For example, the first Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed and Late Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar became a key international figures. Kadirgamar becomes key diplomat during President Chandrika Bandaranayaka Kumarathunga and President Rajapaksa era. Kadirgamar involved in many international dialogues as the Foreign Minister and many countries appreciate his involvement in world peace and international decision making process.

Further, in international arena minister opinion became more valuable in operational processes since the President could not attend all matters himself. Minister opinions and policy statements about local and international areas became a valid legal statement since it fell under the 'opinio juris' practice and became a part of international customary law. Therefore, minister duties and responsibility on Sri Lankan policy statement arena has become more important than ever. Meanwhile, the minister has obligation to the President as a Cabinet Minister and President can sack the minister at any time and also can make a replacement without any legal hassle. Therefore, in practical sense President is the most powerful in the decision making process.

In practical scenario, Executive branch appoints Foreign Minister as one of a close ally and senior politician with the international exposure to handle the country diplomatic relations will be selected. Further, personality and the practical experience in governing section considered as an optional qualification to be the Minister of Foreign Affairs. During 2005 – 2007, President Rajapaksa appointed his left hand and senior politician Minister Mangala Samaraweera as Foreign Minister and later, during the 2010 - January 2015 Professor G.L. Peiris was appointed as the Minister. Therefore, a top politician becomes a foreign minister since its bare many responsibilities in local and international relations. Further, Minister of Foreign Affairs is considered as one of the top Cabinet positions, person who holds this appointment inevitably becomes a key player in local and international decision making process. During 2005-2014 under President Rajapaksa, three Foreign Ministers held the office namely Minister Mangala Samaraweera (2005-2007), Minister Rohitha Bogollagama (2007-2010) and Professor G.L. Peiris (2010-2015).

Role of Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in Foreign Policy Making

Apart from the Prime Minister, other person such as Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has power over the foreign policy decision making process. However, their role is limited due to the Executive Prime Minister position and the Monarchy. Meanwhile, those two positions are important to maintain day to day activities such as representing in different international diplomatic occasion since the Prime Minister cannot attend for all by himself. Under the cabinet

collective responsibility principle all are bound to make decisions through the cabinet and the minister and the secretary has partial independence over certain duties in governing body. They can address the international community at any given time to clarify the British government opinion over the public. That will be part of international customary since their opinions become a parts of the policy and international view towards incident. Therefore, their actions are very important to maintain the balance in foreign policy. On the other hand they have to protect the interests of their voting they got from domestic politics. In that case, we can say there is possibility of liability on their domestic political interest on the international arena. In next section I will evaluate the liability of decision makers and how it is different from the two nation's context in modern day politics. Under Labour and Conservative government key figures such as Jack Straw (2001-2006), Margaret Beckett (2006-2007), David Miliband (2007-2010), William Hague (2010-2014), and Philip Hammond (2014-2015) held the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which is equal to Minister of Foreign Affairs/External Affairs.

Role of Ambassador/High Commissioner in Foreign Policy Making

Since ancient time, messengers/ envoys became key players in foreign relations between countries. In modern diplomacy, Ambassador becomes a key person in abroad to represent the national interest of country which he serves. However, due to the communication and technological advancement the role of modern diplomat becomes less significance in emergency situation and decision making process. He became a symbol that represents his country and the leader of the community who lived in his residence country. Therefore, a country relations diplomat has to maintain the statue of mother nation interest. He provides a vital assistance to the Executive branch by providing ground level information's with the professional practice and the valuable advices to his country while informing the interest of his government to the country that he is residences. In addition to that, diplomats are responsible for providing accurate information's for the both parties to secure their understanding and friendship. Moreover, the personality of the diplomat will be involved in maintain attitude toward representing country while the diplomat has certain privileges within the international community under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In Sri Lanka all the diplomatic positions can be appointed by the President with or without the consent of the minister. Meanwhile in UK diplomatic positions were filled by the consent of Prime Minister under the guidance of British Monarchy. In that case, diplomat has strong liability and responsibility to Executive branch, rather than to minister or other agencies. Several countries considered High Commissioner /Ambassador Positions as vital for the countries diplomatic relations, such as United State of America, United Kingdom, United Nations and India. Therefore, a person, who is appointed as a High Commissioner of United Kingdom, has to be a top diplomat of the country since the position has significance responsibilities than the others. As a result of that, mostly the High Commissioner post goes to either senior diplomat or a political ally for the Executive branch.

Legislative Body

Within the Sri Lankan foreign policy decision making process the Legislative branch plays a less significant role in day to day activities. The reason behind it is, since it cannot act as an independent and emergency governing body. However, the Parliament of Sri Lanka and its members has a role to play in foreign policy context since certain legal process should go through the Legislative branch. Under the 1978 constitution, The Parliament of Sri Lanka became the key law making body and the sovereign authority in legislative process which cannot be transferred to anyone else. According to the Article 75, Parliament shall have power to make laws, including laws having retrospective effect and repealing or amending the Constitution.

Within the decision making process agreements or declarations Sri Lanka signed with the international organizations or governing bodies should be approved by the Parliament before its become a national law. Therefore, within the ratification process Parliament plays a major role since they can reject and change the rules according to their wish. In addition to that, Parliament can question the foreign policy related matter during the Parliament seasons and the minister has a responsibility to Parliament to answer those questions as per his/her knowledge. But the issue is Parliament cannot question the President decisions and minister has many legal provocations to avoid unwanted questions from the Parliament and its members. Therefore, legal vacuum provides independent statues for the Executive branch to conclude the decision making process. The current party based political system allows the President whom considered as the supreme party leader, to control the Party, Parliament and even the government.

Committee on High Posts is another foreign policy related governing body inside the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The committee was established by the former executive President J.R. Jayewardene to examine the suitability of those who are nominated to high public office by the government. In modern day context, Committee on High Posts work as the examining and approving body for the President appointments on foreign diplomatic positions including other high ranking government officers. The concept of high post committee was based on the Senate Committees in the United States, with the purpose over "Check and Balance" principle. However, the manner of its functioning in Sri Lanka is indeed most different and complex since the President has power on Parliament and other important functions. Meanwhile, the standing committee has certain aspects

of power related to foreign policy process. But the capacity of power is not enough to deter the Executive powers. Functions of Parliament didn't give more opportunity to involve the day to day policy and decision making process.

Further, mostly the Executive President has governing power and the support of the majority of Parliament except during 2001-2004. In that period President represented the opposition party of country, but however managed to conduct the certain foreign policy related activities independently. In addition to that, majority leader of the Parliament, who becomes the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, was able to exercise certain degree of foreign policy related power such as entering Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) with The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and acceptance of Norway as a main peace mediator for the Sri Lankan internal conflict. Further, conducting bilateral relations and entering various understanding between international governing bodies was done by the Prime Minister by limiting the role of Executive President in that period.

Same as Sri Lankan context, UK Parliament act as an investigation and law making authority with certain executive and Legislative power. Two houses of Parliament help Executive branch to maintain the balance policy toward international system while allowing them to provide an advisory opinion on international issues. In addition to that, Parliament has right to conduct session over government policies in international policy making context which significantly evaluate the factual information's to justify their actions on international involvements. Since the Prime Minister and the Cabinet is selected from the Parliament, they have legal obligations toward Parliament and their party system to secure their internal political interest as well as the interest of British government. As an example, The House of Commons conducted several session on Sri Lankan ongoing internal war and the torture practices in between 2006-2014.

Bureaucratic and Lobbying Groups

Within the foreign policy process bureaucratic structure becomes one of the most important factors indecision making process. In Sri Lankan context they have become less important since their role is limited. Secretary of Foreign/External Affairs is considered as an administrative office in government rather than a decision maker since his power is limited on overall decision making process. During the decision making process Foreign Secretary is considered as participant and the responsible officer in administrative sections since he has duties and bound to government rather than to politicians. In some occasions Secretary plays a major role such as signing memorandums between nations and involving in the diplomatic negotiation process as a civil servant. Under the recent regimes in Sri Lanka, none of the Secretaries were able to engage with policy making process since political administrative carried out that process. President Rajapaksa appointed Sajin Vas Gunawardena, Member of the Parliament as a monitoring authority for Ministry of External Affairs. As a result of the political intervention, many professional diplomats were marginalised on decision making process or either they didn't participate for the process. Therefore, we can clearly identify the bureaucratic section is maintained under the strict political guidance which later created many foreign policy issues.

In UK, many bureaucratisees were involved in decision making process since they were considered as a part of professional governing body. Civil advisors, top professional diplomats were positively engaged in the decision making process. Therefore, their responsibility was to help the top decision makers to take rational policy decisions rather than to take personal decisions.

The lobbying group with interest influence and contributed to the policy making process. In Sri Lanka some key personals and organisations were involved in policy making and persuaded the decision makers to gain their own policy interest many means. Religious leaders and the sub organizations always try get their interest reflected from the decision makers since it will be favourable for them to improve their image as well as interest in many areas. During the Rajapaksa era, a political and religious group called Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) and civil organizations were involved in decision making process by influencing government to persuade their goals. Later, Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) became a more persuasive party on foreign and national security areas who help to develop large scale national image against the western imperialist countries such as USA, UK and Norway. Their objective was mostly political or religiously motivated. Religious and civil society parties were able to influence President Rajapaksa on important decisions such as conducting war and abolishing peace talk as well as the length of foreign cooperation in certain areas during the war and post war era. In next chapter their involvement in particular foreign policy decision making areas will be evaluated and to identify the true intention behind their agendas as well as the power of their influence in rational decision making process. Further, civil society activists, artists and many others were able to involve directly and indirectly with the Rajapaksa decision making process since 2005.

In UK, various private companies with interest try to influence the foreign relations between the countries. However, in UK-Sri Lanka relations Tamil Diaspora became the key party which influences the British government since they represent electoral sections across United Kingdom. In that case, they had the power to select their Parliament members who always promote their interest within country and also in international level. According to V. Sivasupramaniam, nearly 300,000 Tamil civilians lives in UK. Within the UK Tamil community, majority of Tamils support the separate state concept while others believes in political solution for Sri Lankan internal issue. Under the provisions of British politics they have significantly influenced

their representatives to question the government policies on strategic aids and support to Sri Lanka during the war time. Moreover, the political representative requested British governments to pressurise Sri Lankan government in many occasions.

V. CONCLUSION

Through evaluating the nature of decision making I can clearly highlight the role of Executive President becomes significant in decision making process rather than any other actor. Sri Lankan Presidents used their constitutional power to gain the in absolute authority over foreign policy related matters. Further, President provided a political leadership during war and post war era which was necessary to maintain the military missions as well as political sovereignty of the country. However, in the decision making process Sri Lankan president had independence than UK Prime Minister. Further, constitutional provisions led him into absolute authority where his policies or decisions became the final. Even the Legislative, Judiciary or any other interesting parties didn't get the opportunity to question it whether those are rational or irrational. The role of Foreign Minister became less significant in policy making arena. Minister was only top diplomat who informed the policy framework into international community and also he/she was the core negotiator for Sri Lanka in international stage. However, Minister became an administrative and political hostage under strong regimes since post-Cold war regimes always followed their own decision rather than collective or advisory opinion in policy making process.

Foreign policy decision making in UK is more complex since several parties influence on decision making process. However, constitutionally Prime Minister and British Monarch hold the decision making power. As we can see British Legislative branch continuously intervene the decision making process to change the nature of foreign policy which made greater threat to national interest of country as well as nature of foreign relations. Since the Prime Minister has a Parliamentary Responsibility, he is legally bound to Parliament about the decision he take and he also shared the responsibility to his Cabinet. Therefore, Prime Minister had to address his electoral geography as well as Parliament interest while foreign policy related decision making are made. In addition, he had to follow his regime interests as well as national interest. Meanwhile evaluating the whole scenario I can undoubtedly tell that British Government always gives their priority to national interest rather than regime interests. They stand for their international and local norms anytime since the hegemonic power is most important them to maintain their status in international politics. To Blair to Cameron all the Prime Ministers followed the core policies such as protecting and promoting national interest while promoting the regime interests. However, their fundamental goals remained same during the various regimes in power.

In UK, Legislative branch is a powerful body in foreign relations and decision making process. In relation to Sri Lanka, UK parliament conducted several policies making sessions and investigations and considered Sri Lankan war and post war situation as international issue rather than a domestic issue. Meanwhile, leading politicians in both parties tried to impress their electoral community by intervening policy making and opinion building process. It made a serious damage to bilateral relations since both parties tried to change the most sensitive policy areas in related to national security and ethnic solidarity in domestic politics. Therefore, negative public opinion brought a massive impact on future decision making process. Meanwhile, UK policy making bodies were highly influenced by non-state actors such as Diasporas and Lobbying groups. Therefore, as a Great Power UK accepted their inherited right to intervene the state affairs while Sri Lanka rejected their rights in certain policy involvements.

In overall, UK followed a state level policy making rather than an individual level. Many domestic and international factors became highly influence during the policy making process. Tamil Diaspora became an influentive factor on bilateral relations including political, economic and socio-cultural. Further, they fill the power vacuum after the defeat of LTTE and became a voice of Sri Lankan Tamil community living in Sri Lanka and abroad. Their capability to influence state political structure has raised since democracy and the rise of interdependency between state and non-state actors.

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