ILLEGAL FOREIGN MIGRANT LABOUR IN MALAYSIA:
IMPACT ON DIPLOMACY

MOHD JAMIL BIN SOHAINI

PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGY AND
DIPLOMACY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
BANGI

2005
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this paper is my own except for quotations and summaries, which have been duly acknowledged.

-May 2005-

Mohd Jamil Sohaini
P30796

PENGAKUAN

Saya akui kerja ini adalah hasil kerja saya sendiri kecuali nukilan dan ringkasan yang tiap-tiap satunya telah saya jelaskan sumbernya.

-May 2005-

Mohd Jamil Sohaini
P30796
ABSTRACT

During the 1970's, the Malaysian government adopted an accommodating attitude towards the importation of foreign labour to meet the labour shortages in its multi-sector development programme. Over the years, this has led to a rapid increase in their numbers entering Malaysia and it is believed that there has been a simultaneous entry of large number of illegal migrants labour as well. It is estimated that about 1.3 million foreign migrant labour in Malaysia are mainly from Indonesia and the Philippines, in which it is estimated that about nearly two-third are illegal migrants. Their presence has multiple socio-economic, socio-cultural, and political impacts on Malaysia. The Malaysian government is concerned with the large presence of illegal migrants. In 2002, Malaysia introduced a new immigration law that provides for mandatory canning, fines, and jail sentence aiming to flush out the illegal migrants in the country. The imposition of the new law and the expulsion exercises on Indonesian and Filipinos illegal migrants labour however, were not well-received by Indonesia and the Philippines government. This study attempts to examine the impact of foreign migrant labour on the diplomatic relations between the receiving country Malaysia and the sending countries Indonesia and the Philippines.
CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE TITLE</th>
<th>i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENT</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background                  1
1.2 Problem Statement           3
1.3 Objectives of the Study     4
1.4 Significance of the Study   4
1.5 Definition of Foreign Migrant Labour 5
1.6 Literature Review           5
1.7 Theoretical Approach        7
1.8 Research Methodology        9
1.9 The Research Outline        9
1.10 Limitations                9

CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND ON FOREIGN MIGRANTS LABOUR

2.1 History of Foreign Migrants Labour In-Flow 10
2.2 Reasons for Illegal Entry        15
2.3 Statistics on Foreign Migrant Labor 18
2.4 Migrants and Impact              19