

ABSTRACT

This dissertation is intended as a research paper to analyse and formulate a suitable Maritime Strategy for Sri Lanka. The fundamental focus of Maritime Strategy centres on the control of human activity at sea. There is the effort to establish control for oneself or to deny it to an enemy and at the same time there is the effort to use the control that one has in order to achieve specific ends. The security of Sri Lanka derives from a combination of factors, including the maintenance of a highly competent naval force equipped with advanced technology and structured for unique geostrategic environment. Sri Lanka is now focussing to enhance its naval capabilities for the protection in her outer limits of Territorial Waters. The Maritime Strategy should be as much as it has to deal with the linkage between national strategic interests of the country. This may be the most appropriate time for Sri Lanka to re-appreciate her national interests and to derive National and Military Objectives based on those interests.

This paper also considers the ocean resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sri Lanka and the further extension of the Exclusive Economic Zone by delineation of the outer edge of the Continental Shelf as forwarded in 2009 under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea III. This new area is supposed to be rich of hydrocarbons, as major rivers in India have deposited sediments over a millions of years.

Sri Lanka's Maritime Strategy should not be limited only to war activities at sea and the coastal areas. Hence, the role of the Sri Lanka Navy should not be limited only to coastal

surveillance. She should be able to guard her offshore resources especially so with acquiring more off shore sea area and possible offshore installations in coming future.

The future of Sri Lanka could depend heavily on exploration and exploitation of ocean resources, renewable as well as non renewable. Therefore, her maritime strategy should be capable of protecting those agencies, exploiting such resources and assisting in collecting scientific data which would assist in such exploitation projects. Being the guardian of the sea, Sri Lanka Navy has to play a major role in the maritime strategy of Sri Lanka. This paper examines and suggests a development of a maritime strategy commensurate with our future maritime objectives and the role of the Sri Lanka Navy.