The Tri-partite Agreement

The Brigade of Gurkhas exists because in 1947, in the run up to Indian independence and following a conference between representatives of the United Kingdom, India and Nepal, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the three Governments, in which Nepal agreed to the employment of Gurkha troops in the armies of the UK and India. This document is generally known as the Tri-partite Agreement (TPA), a term which is also used to include any additional bilateral agreements on the subject of the Gurkhas made between the Governments at that time.

The purpose of the TPA was to enable Nepalese citizens to be recruited into the armies of Great Britain and India and to ensure that each country could recruit and maintain formed Gurkha regiments on an equal basis. At the same time the TPA safeguarded the cultural, religious and ethnic heritage of Gurkha soldiers to satisfy the wishes of the Nepalese Government. These arrangements reflected concerns at the time about whether the newly formed Indian Army would be able to retain or attract Gurkhas if there were significant differences between the British Brigade of Gurkhas and Indian Army terms and conditions of service (TACOS). There was also a concern about creating differences in Nepal where British Gurkha pensioners continued to live alongside fellow citizens who served in the Nepalese and Indian Armies.

The TPA laid down principles which are the foundation of Gurkha service in the British Army. Importantly, that Gurkhas were recruited as Nepalese citizens into formed units in the British Army and that when they completed their service were returned to Nepal. Also, that basic Gurkha pay and pensions remained linked to Indian Army TACOS. These principles were enshrined in the TPA, the foundation of which is the mutual goodwill that exists between the countries concerned. The British Government did not wish to undermine this by stepping outside the terms of the TPA or acting in a way that could impact on the ability to recruit Gurkhas from Nepal. It is for this reason that successive Governments have always honoured their obligations to the Nepalese and Indian Governments under the TPA, and acted in accordance with the principles that underpin it.

Without the TPA, Nepalese citizens could not be recruited into the British Army. This is of fundamental importance because it means that without the TPA there would be no Brigade of Gurkhas, and Gurkha soldiers would not be able to serve in the British Army.
भएको थियो। त्यसका अतिरिक्त, सो प्रावधानहरूले नेपाल तथा भारतीय सेनाका अवकाशाप्राप्त सदस्यहरू र ब्रिटिश सेनाका अवकाशाप्राप्त उनीहरूका समक्षीहरू बिधिमा असमानता सृजना हुन्छ कि भनने बारेमा पनि अर्को चिन्ता थियो।

पिक्षीय समझौतामा उल्लिखित सिद्धान्तहरू ब्रिटिश सेनामा गोखाले सेवा गर्न पाउने क्रमको मुख्य जग हो। मुख्यतः गोखाले नेपाली नागरिकको रूपमा भर्ती भई आफ्नो पल्टनहरूमा काम गर्नु पूर्ण अनि अवकाश पनि नेपाल फर्कन पर्ने शर्त थियो। साथै तबल तथा पेनशन जसला कुराहरू भारतीय सैनिक प्रचलित सेवाको शर्तहरू सृजन गरिएका थिए। पिक्षीय समझौतामा स्थापित थियो सिद्धान्तहरू नै दुई देश बिधिमा रहिआएको पारस्परिक सङ्गमदेखि सैनिकहरूको नै दुई देश बिधिमा रहिआएको छ। सन्तासालाई शर्तहरू भन्दा बाहिर जाने वा नेपालमा भर्ती गर्न सक्ने प्रावधान माथि आवश्यक भन्ने हेतु अनुरूप ब्रिटिश सरकारबाट भेटी भएको छ। सन्तासालाई द्विदेशीय संस्थालाई सरोप गर्दै ती सिद्धान्तद्वारा निर्भर जिम्मेदारीलाई बहन गर्दै आएको छ।

पिक्षीय समझौता बिना नेपाली नागरिकहरूलाई ब्रिटिश सेना भर्न सक्ने छैन। उक्त तथ्यले महत्वपूर्ण अर्थ राख्दछ, किनैहरू तिपकी समझौता बिना ब्रिगेड अफ गोखाले अस्तित्व रहन्छ छैन अनि गोखाले ब्रिटिश सेनामा सेवा गर्न सक्ने हुन सक्नु हुने छैन।