

**July 11, 1960**  
**Some Remarks by Zhou Enlai on a Report by Nie Rongzhen**

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**Summary:**

In the wake of a deepening Sino-Soviet split, Zhou Enlai explains how to manage Chinese bilateral technological and educational exchanges. Above all, Zhou emphasizes the importance of Chinese self-reliance in innovation and education as the country moves forward.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

Chinese

**Contents:**

Transcript - Chinese  
Translation - English

周恩来在聂荣臻报告上的几段批语  
1960年7月11日

独立自主，自力更生，立足国内。

技术合作：(一)是协议，仍然要，不要催。(二)新项目，新要求，少提少要，而不是一律不要，否则也会引起相反结果。(三)例行技术合作少提为好。

专家问题：一、期满的，一般不留，热诚欢送；十分必要而专家本人又好，可提出延聘，如不同意，即不再留。二、未满期的，我们一律不退，帮助他们好好工作，他要撤走，留一次，不成，即不再留；如不征求同意即撤走，应表示遗憾。三、新聘的，要少提或不提，十分必要的提出后不同意，即不再提。

留学生问题待研究后再定。技术交换和保密问题另拟。

关于科学技术：一、要。十分必要的仍然要提，他们不行，不须求。二、学。留学生、研究生、实习生、研究员已经去的，必须学好，不给学，就不学；来我国专家，必须派人向他们认真学习，不教，就不学。三、买。凡可购买的重要技术资料，应从西方国家千方百计的买到；买不到的，应另行设法搞到。四、钻。不管要到、学到、买到与否或者多少，主要还靠自己钻研。自己不钻，不仅不能有独特的创造发明，而且也不能把要到、学到、买到的用于实际和有所发展。

Base ourselves on independence, self-reliance and autarky.

Technical cooperation: 1. Hold on to what has been agreed upon, but don't press further. 2. Don't ask for too many new items or new requests, but don't make none at all; otherwise we may bring on unintended consequences. 3. It is better not to raise very often [the topic of] routine technical cooperation.

The issue of [Soviet] specialists: 1. Generally do not retain [but] warmly send off those whose contracts have expired; when absolutely necessary and specialists are also [of] good [character], we can propose an extension, but if they don't agree, then don't [try to] retain [them]. 2. As a general rule, we won't send back those whose contract terms have not expired, we will help them to do their work well, and if they want to withdraw them, we will [try] to retain them once. And if they don't ask our agreement and withdraw them, we should express our regret. 3. Don't ask or don't ask very often about new [Soviet experts], but, when absolutely necessary, and they don't agree after we raise [the issue], then just drop it.

Let's decide the issue of [Chinese] students studying abroad after further study. Let's separately decide the issue of technical exchanges and the protection of secrets.

Regarding science and technology: 1. Yes. We should still propose what is absolutely necessary. If they can't do [what we propose], we should not press [further]. 2. Study. Overseas students, graduate students, trainees, and research fellows who have already gone [to the Soviet Union] should study diligently, [but] if they are not allowed to study, then they [can't] study; [as for Soviet] experts who have come to our country, we should assign people to study diligently with them, but if they don't teach, then [our assignees can't] study. 3. Purchasing. All essential technical material that can be purchased must be purchased from Western countries; what cannot be purchased should be acquired through other means. 4. Intensive study. Regardless of what we acquire, what we study, and what we purchase, or how much [is involved], we must principally rely on our own intensive study. If we don't engage in intensive study, not only will we not be able to create our own unique inventions, but, furthermore, we also will not be able to make practical use and develop what we have acquired, studied and purchased.