

Zhou Enlai's instructions on several issues that should be paid attention to when hiring Soviet experts to carry out architectural design

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Comrades Wang Zhen and Saifuding informed the responsible comrades of the major administrative regions and the Central Finance and Economics Committee:

According to the Central Finance and Economics Committee's report, the design of the Xinjiang Auto Repair Factory has been made by a design team sent by the Soviet side after an on-site survey. The construction of the building alone will require 26 million catties of rice, and the cost of machinery and equipment is still unknown. According to Bai Lati, deputy director of the Xinjiang Finance and Economics Committee, the design of Xinjiang's hospital is also being drafted by Soviet experts. It is said that the entire plan for the medical school will take ten years to complete. Bai Lati and the Central Health Ministry have been instructed to talk to Soviet experts directly and ask them to design the system based on our country's current financial situation and needs, and to make do with what they have and under conditions that can be used.

From the above two examples, we know that when we invite Soviet experts to design, we must inform them in advance of the scope of the design and our material foundation, technical conditions, production capacity and financial situation, so that they can understand our current possible conditions, and stipulate that we should not import any machines and materials that we already have or can be transferred from other regions; we should not invite any specialized technicians from the Soviet Union that we can find; and we should not start from scratch or build factories and buildings that can be equipped with makeshift equipment according to the highest standards. Unless the frontier is far away and transportation is difficult, and imported machines and materials are cheaper and cheaper than those shipped from the interior, then they can be imported after approval by the Central Finance and Economics Committee; or if it is new equipment, even if we have specialized technicians, they must come from the Soviet Union to teach us, then we should hire them according to needs; or if it is a basic or important industry, it is not enough to choose the most appropriate area or build the most solid and spacious factory site and building to adapt to its gradual development, then we should carry out a larger-scale design with the approval of the Central Finance and Economics Committee. As for the design of the Xinjiang Automobile Repair Factory and the Medical College, they are not basic or important industries. However, because the Soviet design experts were not informed in advance, it took several months to complete the design. After the design was completed, it was very difficult to make changes, and we were in a passive position. Therefore, we have approved the architectural design of the Xinjiang Automobile Repair Factory. However, in order to learn from experience, we have telegraphed the above information and hope that all districts will be informed of the relevant departments.