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### H-Diplo Roundtable Review

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26 July 2010 (original roundtable)

23 March 2011 (further response)

15 August 2011 (further comments)

**30 September 2011**

*Roundtable Editors:* Thomas Maddux and Diane Labrosse

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John Vurpillat

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**Review of “Qing Simei/Chen Jian Recent Exchanges in H-Diplo” by Shen Zhihua, East China Normal University.**

**Re:** H-Diplo Roundtable Review of Simei Qing, *From Allies to Enemies: Visions of Modernity, Identity, and U.S.-China Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007. Published on 13 October 2010. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XI-44.pdf>

**Re:** “Serious Concerns: Discrepancies between Qing’s Citations and Her Sources,” by Chen Jian, Cornell University. Published on 15 August 2011. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables/PDF/RT-XI-44-ChenJian-SeriousConcerns.pdf> .

**Re:** “Response by Simei Qing, James Madison College, Michigan State University.” Published on 15 August 2011. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables/PDF/RT-XI-44-Qing-furtherfurther-response.pdf> .

Stable URL: <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables/PDF/RT-XI-44-ShenZhihua.pdf>

**Review of “Qing Simei/Chen Jian Recent Exchanges in H-Diplo” by Shen Zhihua, East China Normal University**

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[English translation by Yafeng Xia (original Chinese review follows below)]

**I**n the recent exchanges between Professors Chen Jian and Qing Simei posted on H-Diplo, they discussed a key document on a meeting between PRC Premier Zhou Enlai and Soviet Ambassador to China Roshchin on November 15, 1949, and they both mentioned that I provided them with the Chinese translation of the meeting’s record from Russian archives. Professors Chen and Qing have been my longtime friends. When they asked me for a copy of the Chinese translation of the document in February and July respectively, I

willingly shared it with them. The document is a part of the larger and ongoing project of translating Russian documents into Chinese that I have been presiding over since 1995. Seeing the discrepancy between Professors Chen and Qing concerns the document's "key points" in their exchanges, I find it necessary to offer my objective view of it.

The document itself is quite long. In the first part of it, Zhou introduced the economic and financial difficulties that China was then facing, and presented a series of related figures. In the meantime, Zhou also emphasized that these difficulties were different from those that the Nationalist regime had encountered as "they are difficulties in the process of marching forward," and that "absolutely they were not unpredictable or irresolvable." After briefing Roshchin on the measures that the Chinese Communist Party would take to deal with these difficulties, Zhou told Roshchin that "our belief is that we can resolve all of the financial and economic difficulties that we are now facing in two years' time."

It is apparent that the emphasis of Zhou's talk was not on the economic and financial difficulty that China was then facing but, rather, that this was a temporary phenomenon, and that the difficulties were both predictable and resolvable. Thus, in my view, Professor Chen's summary of Zhou's discussion accurately reflects his "key points."

In the rest of the document, Zhou shifted the discussion to other subjects, such as the smooth advance of the People's Liberation Army's military actions, preparations for the Taiwan Campaign, plans for forming a new government, the CCP's attitudes toward the bourgeoisie and other "democratic parties," the need to promote more workers to leadership positions in the new government, the features of the New China, and the transformation of surrendered Nationalist generals and their troops. These parts are not related to the exchanges between Professors Chen and Qing.

During the conversation, Zhou did not make such a statement that "if China had to be involved in a war, it would be a 'fatal blow' to the Chinese economic recovery." Therefore, Professor Qing should not "quote" something that does not exist in the original document.

I also would like to point out that the article by Jin Dongji [His English name is Kim Dong Gil] in *Dangdai zhongguoshi yanjiu* (No. 2, 2006) is not a proper source to get the "key points" of the Zhou-Roshchin talk. Only one sentence in Kim's article is related to the document, and Kim uses it to support his own views that "the government of the New China was facing very difficult financial situation, and China thus urgently needed to demobilize extra troops."

In summary, according to my own experience, in conducting multi-archival and multi-source research, we should be very careful and cautious, and we must cite the sources in accurate ways.

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《外交史在线》编辑：

最近，在陈兼教授和卿斯美教授发表于《外交史在线》的意见交换中，涉及到了一份关于中国总理周恩来和苏联驻华大使罗申于1949年11月15日会晤的文件，并都提到他们是从我处得到这一出自于俄国档案馆的文件的中文译本的。陈、卿两位教授是我多年的朋友，他们于2月和7月先后向我提出要看这份文件的中译本，我当然是应该提供的。这一文件是我自1995年以来便一直主持的将俄国文件译为中文的一项持续进行的大项目的一部分。当我看到陈、卿两位教授在意见交流中对文件“要点”的理解存在基本分歧时，我觉得，有必要就此提供一个客观的概述。

这一文件很长。在谈话的第一部分，周恩来介绍了中国所面临的经济和财政困难，并列举了一系列数据。但他同时又着重指出，中共在这方面遇到的困难同国民党“有着根本的区别”，因为“这些困难是前进中的困难”，“并不是不可预见和不可克服的”。在介绍了中共针对困难将采取的措施后，周恩来表示：“我们相信，经过两年时间，我们将全部解决我们的财政经济困难。”

很明显，周恩来在这一谈话中虽然讨论了中共所面临的经济困难，但他强调了这只是一时暂时的现象，这些困难是可以克服和解决的。因此，我认为陈兼教授关于谈话“要点”的概述是准确的。

在谈话的其他部分，周恩来谈到了另一些问题，如解放军军事行动的顺利推进，台湾战役的准备，中央政府的组建，中共对各民主党派及民族资产阶级的政策，提拔更多工人进入国家机关领导岗位，以及新中国的特点以及对起义投诚的国民党部队实行改编的问题。这些部分同陈、卿两位教授的讨论没有直接联系。

在整个谈话中，没有关于周恩来表示“若卷入战争，将对新中国的经济恢复是‘致命打击’”的内容。因此，卿斯美教授不应该“解读”出文件中根本不存在的内容。

顺便应该指出，我觉得，要从金东吉发表于《当代中国研究》2006年第2期的论文中获得周-罗申谈话的“要点”恐怕是不妥当的。金文中只有一句话涉及到这个文件，他的目的则是要以此支持自己关于中国面临着经济困难、因而迫切需要复员多余军队的观点。

总之，我的经验告诉我，在从事多边档案和多种文献的研究和写作时，我们应该特别谨慎小心，必须准确地引用文献资料。

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