

REASON AND LOVE

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Excerpts from a speech given on the occasion of the inauguration of the U.B.C./Republic of Vietnam Joint Project, Bo Ho Hotel, Hanoi, July 1, 1991:

President Ky, Vice-Presidents Nam and Tang, Directors, colleagues and staff of the National Centre for Social Sciences: The University of British Columbia warmly welcomes you to this dinner to celebrate our joint project with your Centre.

Today, July 1, is Canada's national holiday. So it is a particularly happy occasion for us. We are happy to celebrate our 124th birthday; and happy that on this birthday, Canada is beginning a new relationship with Vietnam. Our project has been supported by the Canadian International Development Agency. This means that the Canadian government now, officially, wants to increase contact with Vietnam, and is prepared to support co-operation between our two countries in this and other ways.

Our project, as many of you know, has a long history. The spiritual, and in fact practical, founder of our project is Kathleen Gough Aberle, a distinguished Canadian anthropologist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Gough first came to Vietnam in 1979, then again in 1982, to study the evolving political economy of Vietnam. One of her colleagues here was Professor Nguyen Minh Luân who accepted Kathleen's invitation to visit Canada and attend a scholarly conference. Some of us in the U.B.C. delegation were privileged to meet him. A friendship developed immediately, and we were in the fortunate position to be able to apply for support from CIDA as soon as it began authorizing projects in Vietnam last year.

Kathleen worked very hard in putting together the proposals which led to this project. She was thrilled to think she would once again be able to work with her friends here.

To the shock of all of us she took ill and died in September.

In her book on Vietnam which was just published, her affection for the Vietnamese people shines through on every page. Several times in her book

she notes that the ideals of the Vietnamese revolutionaries can be summed up in the words, "reason and love."

I am hopeful that these ideals will guide our project. As scholars, of course, we respect reason. But we must use our reason with love. We must develop knowledge to help create conditions in which life for the poor can be improved.

The more I get to know the scholars and staff of the National Centre, the more confident I am that our project will continue in the spirit that so impressed Kathleen.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on this day, Canada's birthday, and at the opening of the Canadian embassy in Hanoi, I ask that you join me in celebrating the spiritual legacy left by Kathleen Gough Aberle: "International scholarly co-operation in the spirit of reason and love."