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TOCH WINS CANTRIL AWARD FOR 1976

Washington, D. C., April 6, 1977 -- Hans Toch, Professor of Criminal Justice at the State University of New York (Albany), has won the Hadley Cantril Memorial Award for his book, Men in Crisis.

The Hadley Cantril Memorial Award is presented annually to the author of the publication judged by an Awards Committee to represent an especially significant contribution to the social and behavioral sciences.

The Award consists of a medallion bearing a likeness of Hadley Cantril and a citation which reads: "Presented to Hans Toch for his book, Men in Crisis -- a compelling and sensitive exploration of the differing crises of men confronting the shared stresses of prison life; a demonstration that objectivity is compatible with compassion and that systematic inquiry can honor the uniqueness of the individual."

Men in Crisis, published by the Aldine Publishing Company, examines a wide spectrum of feelings and thoughts of men who breakdown under the harshness and deprivations of life in a

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penal institution. The book concludes with an extended discussion of strategies for intervening in the varying kinds of personal crises experienced.

Toch, a Ph.D. from Princeton University, is a former Fulbright Fellow and formerly Professor of Psychology at the Michigan State University. He is author of numerous articles and several other books, including, Violent Men (1967), Social Perception (1967), and The Social Psychology of Social Movements (1965).

The Award was established in memory of Hadley Cantril, a pioneer in social psychology and an early student of public opinion. The Award memorializes Cantril's interest in a broad range of issues: systematic social psychology, the study of perception, humanistic psychology and international affairs, among others.

Men in Crisis was selected from many works nominated for the 1976 Award. The selection was made by a six member Awards Committee comprised of W. Phillips Davision, Professor of Journalism and Sociology at Columbia University; Albert H. Hastorf, former Dean of the Faculty and currently Professor of Psychology at Stanford University; William H. Ittelson, Professor of Psychology at the University of Arizona; Philip E. Jacob, Professor of Political Science at the University of Hawaii; Kenneth E. Livingston, M.D., of the Department of Neurological Surgery, the Wellesley Hospital, Toronto; and Vincent P. Rock, Staff Director of the Commission on the Operation of the Senate.

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In characterizing the approach taken in Men in Crisis, Toch writes: "Our focus in examining these breakdowns is neither on weakness or defects of the individual nor on drawbacks or difficulties of the environment. It is, rather, on the 'transaction' between individual and environment -- the relationship between areas of personal susceptibility and the difficulties presented by concrete situations." He then elaborates, noting: "Specific tests are posed by the environment which specific persons fail. Other persons may surmount the same difficulties. And the same persons might have found the same junctures manageable at other stages of their personal and social development or in other settings."

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