

Man dies in 50ft. plunge from window

By GUY SIMPSON

A MAN suspended from "training" with the scientology cult in Edinburgh a few days ago died in a 50ft. plunge yesterday.

Jim Stewart (35), a South African, fell from the third floor window of an hotel bedroom in the centre of the city.

And last night the news of his death shocked leaders of the cult that was branded last week as "socially harmful" by Health Minister Kenneth Robinson.

Mr. Stewart had arrived in Edinburgh with his wife early this month to study at the Hubbard College of Personal Independence — world centre for the organisation's advanced course.

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Leaders said he had been suspended after it was discovered he had had an epileptic fit in the street a few days ago.

Explained Cal Widdey (30), Australian-born executive secretary of the centre: "Our ethics are very strict on the subject of not processing those who have chronic disabilities." Speaking in an office in the organisation's new £16,000 Scottish H.Q. in South Bridge, he said: "We do not provide cures for people. Our aim is to improve individuals."

Last night Mrs. Stewart was being comforted by friends at her hotel. At present 130 people from all parts of the world are undergoing courses at the South Bridge centre.