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cult

to expand Scotland

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Canada, Australia, and England. "Since we have only just started setting up in Scotland, we have no Scots yet," said "Communicator," Madeleine Litchfield, from Canada. "But there are a number who are on their way."

On a local basis, the organisation have started the Hubbard Academy of Personal Independence in

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Cult to expand

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an old workshop in Queen Street.

The workshop was bought from house furnishers W. K. Storie & Son, at a cost of £28,000 but several thousand pounds more are being spent on equipping and decorating.

The deal included a warehouse in North-east Thistle Street Lane, which is now the 'scientologists' publication distribution centre, Pubs Org.

Thousands of the books—many of them by L. Ron Hubbard—are sent out all over the world from here every week.

The money for the purchase of the property in Edinburgh came from the organisation's central fund, said Miss Litchfield. The fund holds money raised by their enterprises throughout the world.

Why did the scientologists choose Scotland as their base?

"The Scottish character is very much in line with the beliefs of scientology," said Miss Litchfield.

The cult are upset and annoyed at the Government's intervention. "They have no legal right to touch us," said Miss Litchfield, "and this must show that we are doing nothing wrong."

What of their future in Scotland. So far more than £50,000 of the organisation's money has been invested in Edinburgh and more could be spent

"I have no idea what plans are in store for us here," commented Miss Litchfield. Expansion plans will come from Hubbard when he is ready.

Hubbard himself is ready one of his three ships "somewhere" at sea doing advanced research which is "very important" to the organisation.

Mr Kenneth Robinson, Minister of Health, speaking about scientology in the Commons last week, said: "It is a pseudo-philosophical cult introduced into this country from the United States. The Government have become increasingly concerned at its spread in the United Kingdom."

"The Government is satisfied that scientology is socially harmful. It alienates members of families from each other. Its authoritarian principles and practices are a potential menace to the personality and well being of those so deluded as to become its followers."