

THE SCOTSMAN

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1984

Scientists win court ban on revelation

The Church of Scientology in Denmark were granted a court order by a Scottish judge yesterday banning six former members of their church who formed a breakaway group from publishing or divulging to anyone copies of "secret scriptures" alleged to have been stolen from the church in Copenhagen.

Lord Cameron, at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, granted interim interdict to the church after hearing that two of the group, Mr Robin Scott and his wife, Adrienne, and others had set up a rival organisation to the Scientologists, known as the Advanced Ability Centre.

The court heard that in 1983 the Scotts bought Candacraig House, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, with the intention of turning it into a centre where Scientology courses were provided, outwith the organisation of the Church of Scientology. The other members of the breakaway group in the case live at Candacraig and help to provide these courses.

The Church of Scientology claimed in their petition to the court that the advanced courses they provided were in technical terms which were understandable only by suitably qualified members of the Church of Scientology. They claimed the materials were confidential and if not properly used could cause distress to students.

The court was told by Mr James Drummond Young, counsel for the church, that another two former members, Ron Lawley and Morag Bellmaine, called at the church's office in Copenhagen dressed in the uniform of high officers of the Church of Scientology.

They introduced themselves as missionaries of the Religious Technology Centre — a Californian association linked with the scientologists. It was believed they were bona fide representatives from California. The two were allowed by staff to see published materials dealing

with Scientology. It is alleged by the church that some time after that the two left the office with the Scientology materials and took them to the United Kingdom.

The scientologists allege that Mr Scott was the "principal organiser" of the theft. He was arrested by Danish police on March 13. They alleged he confessed to Danish police that he had arranged the theft and will make a further court appearance soon.

The church also claimed that the members of the breakaway group have admitted they now possess the entire range of confidential study course materials in Scientology.

The church claimed that the Scotts produced a booklet in February claiming to be able to provide Scientology courses. This booklet, the church alleges, could be based only upon materials said to be stolen in Copenhagen. The scientologists say they are losing revenue because they are being deprived of the opportunity to provide the same courses. They estimate their loss at £5,000.

The church notified the Court of Session that they intend to sue Mr and Mrs Scott and the other members of the group for £5,000 plus interest because of the lost revenue.

The petitioners were named as the Church of Scientology Advanced Organisation, Saint Hill, Europe and Africa, and were described as an association under the laws of Denmark with an office at Jernbanegade 6, 1608 Copenhagen.

The defenders were named as Robin Scott, his wife, Adrienne, Robert Ainsworth, Mohammed Boudarba, Michael Wray and Mrs Heather Wray, all of Candacraig House, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire.

The petition was not defended on behalf of the breakaway group but they will have 14 days to lodge answers to the petition to the Court of Session.