

Three Britons held in mass swoop on cult

From WILLIAM BOND in Madrid

THREE Britons were among 51 leaders of the worldwide Scientology religious sect held in Madrid after armed police swooped on their luxury hotel.

They were named yesterday as Londoners Janet Murray and William Tucker, 43, and Michael Wenlock, 35, from Harrogate, Yorkshire.

All were in cells at Madrid's central criminal court, along with the leader of the sect, American Heber Jentzsch, 53, who took over when

the Scientologist's founder, science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, died two years ago.

Squads of police moved against the sect on Sunday night as the 260 leaders were holding an international congress at the city-centre Hotel Melia Castilla.

At the same time other police, acting in co-ordinated raids, seized documents at Scientology centres in many Spanish cities including Barcelona, Bilbao, Valencia, Seville and Alicante.

The investigation lasted nine months during which police tapped telephone calls and searched bank records.

Charges

As the case opened yesterday, Judge Jose Maria Vazquez Honrubia described Scientology as 'a multi-national organisation whose sole aim is making quick money under the guise of doing good.'

The charges have not yet been finalised, but the judge said that they could include illegal association, threats, restrictions on individuals' freedom, extortion, fraud, forgery and tax swindles.

Police are also investigating allegations of kidnapping teenagers who were said to have been lured into the sect.

Within the organisation, which covers 30 countries with more than 600 branches, the court was told that Jentzsch was referred to as 'The Commodore'.

The judge accused the sect of being built on a structure of power that employed brainwashing, and said that victims of its fraudulent activities preferred to forget rather than come forward. He said that the sect had set up clinics for drug addicts which were dirty, run by untrained staff and little more than recruiting centres.

Spain Seizes Scientology Leaders

Chronicle Wire Services

Madrid

Police arrested 69 people in a raid on a hotel and accused 45 of them of fraud, illegal association and forgery for being members of the Church of Scientology.

Among those held was Heber Jentsch, a 53-year-old Utah man and an alleged "commander" in the organization, and two unidentified Americans, judicial sources said.

In 1986 and again last June, Spain's Justice Ministry rejected a petition by the Church of Scientology for accreditation as a legitimate religious institution on the grounds that the group's activities "negatively affect public health."

A court spokesman said 24 of the original 69 people arrested were released when it was learned during questioning that they were not leaders of the group.

Judge Jose Maria Vasquez Honrubia said that besides the Americans, those under arrest include Scientology leaders from Britain, Portugal, Denmark, Venezuela, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

The raid was conducted on the headquarters of Narconon, a drug rehabilitation program, Dianetics and the Civil Association of Applied Philosophy, all associated with the Church of Scientology.

The raid at a Madrid hotel was carried out after a nine-month police investigation during which 30 telephone wiretaps indicated the group was planning an international meeting in the city, the judge said.

Vasquez Honrubia said those under arrest are to be charged with fraud, illegal association, coercion, forgery of public documents, tax evasion and failure to meet social security payments.

Spain Arrests Scientology Leaders

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He did not specify what type of forgery and fraud the organizers had engaged in, but news reports said at least one fraud charge stemmed from Narconon's attempts to persuade its drug-addicted clients to join the Church of Scientology as part of their treatment.

The Church of Scientology was founded in 1950 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. Its activities in Spain center on the drug rehabilitation program known as Narconon and a spiritual group called the Civil Dianetic Association.

In Washington, the Rev. Brian Anderson, vice president of the Church of Scientology International, released a statement that condemned the raid as "an outrageous act of injustice." He said the group's drug rehabilitation programs are the most effective in Spain.

In 1984, the U.S. government began an investigation of Scientology founder Hubbard's tax returns after the Internal Revenue Service said it suspected millions of dollars in church funds had been transferred to Hubbard to protect the church's tax-exempt status and to avoid paying taxes.

Scientists said the FBI, the CIA, the IRS and other government agencies took part in a conspiracy to harass the organization in violation of its religious freedom.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering the case. A ruling is likely to be handed down by July.

Spain jails Scientology leader

American faces indictment on charges of fraud, tax evasion

Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A judge ordered the head of the Church of Scientology International jailed on Wednesday pending possible indictment on charges of fraud, criminal association and tax evasion.

Judge Jose Maria Vazquez Honrubia said it would be at least a week before Heber Jentzsch of Los Angeles sees a second judge about setting bail.

He told reporters Jentzsch was being sent to Carabanchel Prison outside Madrid and said the legal process could take months or even years before it reaches trial.

Vazquez Honrubia said authorities had frozen \$1.76 million in bank accounts belonging to officials of the U.S.-based Church of Scientology and the church's drug rehabilitation program, Narconon.

"There is obvious and evident tax fraud here," the judge said.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Bob Meade said Gerald Finn of Boston also was jailed pending further investigation and two other Americans were awaiting expulsion.

Meade did not identify the two, but court records listed them as Nancy Webyk and William Tucker, believed to be husband and wife.

Edith Buchele, a West German residing in Los An-

geles, said the organization would sue the judge immediately "because his orders are illegal."

She identified herself at a news conference earlier Wednesday as chief officer in the church's Office of Special Affairs.

Vazquez Honrubia ordered a police raid on an international meeting in Madrid Sunday of members of the organization, following a nine-month investigation into complaints by Spaniards that they had been bilked.

The judge told reporters after questioning all 71 people arrested in the raid that 11 were jailed pending further investigation or indictment, 10 were ordered expelled and 50 were released.

Other foreigners ordered expelled included two Britons, two Italians, one French, one Swiss, one Swede and one Dane, the organization's attorney in Spain, Jose Luis Chamorro, said.

Spain's Justice Ministry twice refused to grant the organization legal status as a religious entity.

The Church of Scientology, founded in the mid-1950s by American science fiction author and former U.S. Navy officer L. Ron Hubbard, has its European headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Several lawsuits are pending in the United States against the church, involving its tax-exempt status and burglaries of offices of the Internal Revenue Service.

EAST GRINSTEAD

OBSERVER

THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER, 1988

SPANISH POLICE SWOOP ON CULT

THREE BRITISH Scientologists — including one who worked at East Grinstead's Saint Hill Manor — were among 69 cult members arrested in a swoop by Spanish police.

The police raid on Madrid's Hotel Mella Castilla came after a nine-month operation which included phone wire tapping.

The police moved in as the sect planned an international meeting of Church of Scientology leaders.

Of those arrested, 24 were later released after they had been cleared of being involved with the running of the cult.

But the three Britons are still being held in the cells and could face criminal charges of fraud, illegal association and forgery.

The trio have been named as Janet Murray and William Tucker from London, and Michael Wenlock of Harrogate.

Wenlock is said to have worked at the cult's British headquarters — Saint Hill Manor in Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead.

A Spanish judge has begun questioning the Church members and has said 51 could be charged with threats of coercion, forgery and tax evasion.



Those in custody also included Herbert Hertzch, a 53-year-old US citizen from Utah and an alleged "Commander" in the organisation a judge told reporters at a news conference last night.

Judge Jose Maria Vasquez Honrubia said the raid was carried out after police investigations indicated leaders of the organisation were planning an international meeting in the Spanish capital.

Judge Vasquez Honrubia said those under arrest, who also included two other unnamed Americans, two French, four Italians, five Argentines, two Mexicans, one Swede, one Swiss, one Chilean, one Venezuelan, one South African, one Peruvian, and 20 Spaniards, would be charged with fraud, illegal association, coercion, forgery of public documents, tax evasion and failure to meet social security payments.

Police also raided the headquarters of Narconon, a drug rehabilitation programme, Dianetics and the Civil Association of Applied Philosophy, all associated with the Church of

Scientology, in Barcelona, Valencia, Alicante, Seville, Jerez de la Frontera, Bilbao, Burgos and Oñdarroa.

More arrests are expected.

According to information distributed by the Organisation, The Church of Scientology has offices in 30 countries.

There are no restrictions on its activities in the United States where it was founded in 1954 by L. Ron Hubbard, who suffered a stroke and died in 1986.

In 1984 the US Government began an investigation of Hubbard's tax returns after the Internal Revenue Service said it suspected millions of dollars in church funds had been transferred to Hubbard in a scheme to protect the church's tax-exempt status and to avoid paying taxes on the money.

As Judge Honrubia started his investigation he told reporters: "The real God of this organisation is money".

He said the sect made members pay progressively large fees for attending courses and threatened people who wanted to leave.

Up to 40 complaints had been filed in Spanish courts, including one for abduction of a youth.

● A spokesman for the Scientologists' British headquarters at Saint Hill Manor was not available for comment.

■ Scientology Leader Sent to Jail in Spain

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The judge said authorities had frozen \$1.76 million in bank accounts belonging to officials of the U.S.-based Church of Scientology and the church's drug rehabilitation program, Narconon.

Edith Buchele, who said she is the chief officer in the church's office of special affairs, said the organization will sue the judge "because his orders are illegal."

Police raided an international meeting in Madrid on Sunday of members of the organization, after a nine-month investigation into complaints by Spaniards that they had been bilked.

Spain Expels 6 Scientologists In Fraud Case

Reuters

Madrid

A Spanish judge yesterday ordered the expulsion of six foreigners detained in a police sweep of offices of the Church of Scientology, court sources said.

Diplomats said the six were an American, three Britons, a Dane and a Swede.

Judge Jose Maria Vazquez Honrubia released 41 of the 71 members of the international sect and remanded nine others into custody.

The six, four women and two men, were detained Sunday at a Madrid congress of the organization which claims branches in 30 countries. The judge has said they could face charges of fraud and tax evasion.

The court sources said Vazquez Honrubia ordered police raids on 26 offices of the sect across the country. Among those detained were the sect's American director, Hebert Hertzch, 53, from Los Angeles; several other Americans, Portuguese and Swiss; and about 20 Spaniards.

Vazquez Honrubia said on Monday that the group, founded in the United States in 1966, made members pay progressively larger fees

Britain Bans Harper's Over Spy Story

New York Times

The British government has broadened its attempts to censor the memoirs of a former secret service agent by blocking the distribution of the current issue of Harper's magazine in Britain.

The December Harper's includes excerpts from the book, "Inside MI6," by Anthony Cavendish, who retired more than 30 years ago.

In a letter last week to Harper's British distributor, David Hogg, an assistant Treasury solicitor, warned that the company would run the risk of contempt of a court order if it delivered its 200 copies of the issue to newsstands.

Britain has tried for more than three years to block distribution of the book on the grounds that it violates the Official Secrets Act.

Cavendish wrote the book as a defense of Sir Maurice Oldfield, the former director of MI-6, Britain's counterintelligence service.

John R. MacArthur, the president and publisher of Harper's, said the magazine will fight the ban.

and threatened people who wanted to leave.

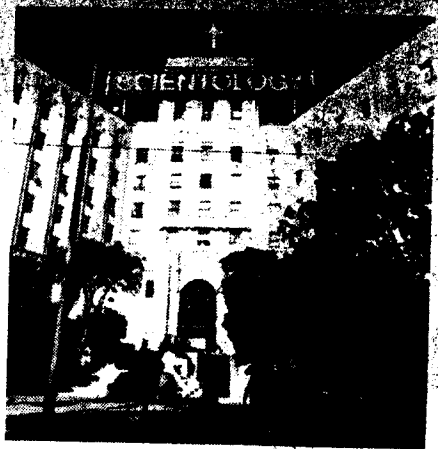
"The real god of this organization is money," he told reporters.

Vazquez Honrubia said the group was registered as not-for-profit but documents showed profits of \$666,000 in Spain in 1986.

L.A. WEEKLY

November 25-December 1, 1988

Insights



No tiene que estar loco para trabajar aquí, pero te conviene.

HARD SELL *Es Usted una de esas personas interesadas en conocer mas acerca de si mismo? (Are you one of those people interested in knowing more about yourself?)*

That's the nice, clean, formal Spanish that begins, innocently enough, a four-page text (pink with black ink) stuffed between the news and sports sections of a recent issue of *La Opinion*. Such inserts are not uncommon — they're great marketing ploys.

What with everyone jumping on the hot "Hispanic" market these days, we suppose no one should be surprised to see businesses of *all* types competing for that new-found peso. So Catholic Church, beware! Besides a myriad of evangelical factions tambourining their way into the sacred side of Latino life, here comes — uniforms, blank stares, strange vocabulary and all — the Church of Scientology.

Tenga mas exito! Mejore sus relaciones con otros! Adquiera mayor confianza! (More success! Better relationships! Gain confidence in yourself!)

Try though we did, we couldn't get a comment from Scientology officials before press time (although one recruiter tried a hard-sell on one of our interns: "Come on by. When can you make it? It's better for you to come by in person. How about this afternoon? Why not?"). But what could the good ol' Church have told us, anyway? More than 10 million copies of *Dianetica* sold in Latin America? New satellite offices in Boyle Heights? Alas, it appears that *El maestro* Hubbard — channeling his instructions in from above, below, or wherever he is — don't discriminate no more.

—reported by Ruben Martinez