

ANTI-ARMS CAMPAIGNERS FOOL POLICE

Protesters drive tank to arms expo

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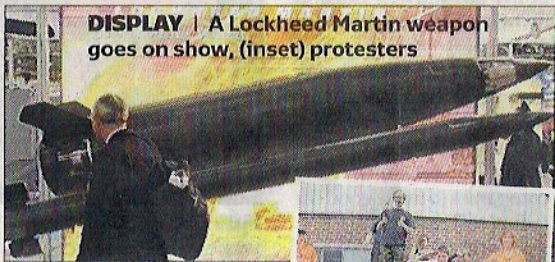
PROTESTERS in a tank rolled into a London arms fair after a cat and mouse game which saw police swoop on a decoy vehicle, it emerged today.

Members of the Space Hijackers campaign group were yesterday raided by officers before they could set off from their "secret" location to the Defence Systems & Equipment International exhibition in London's Docklands.

Police inspected the tank and refused to let it move off because the 50-year old vehicle had faulty suspension.

But a second tank was already on its way and was auctioned off outside the exhibition in protest against arms dealers.

The Space Hijackers are a group of self-styled pranksters who use stunts to fuel their political campaigns. Space Hijacker Peter Brownell



DISPLAY | A Lockheed Martin weapon goes on show, (inset) protesters

said: "The decoy tank was top secret.

"We climbed on top of the tank to announce to the police that the other tank was on its way.

"We hired one of the tanks for £2,000 and it was worth every penny just to see the look on the faces of the offi-

ers when we told them."

About 25,000 people are expected to visit the exhibition involving 1,200 companies from 36 countries.

ON SHOW

Displays at the Arms Fair include:

- A £30,000 'hardshell glider' which allows soldiers to fly into a war zone at 185mph
- A 'heat-ray' crowd control weapon called Silent Guardian
- A disposable rocket launcher made by car maker Saab