

**COMMUNICATION:** For direct contact between MIR and TsUP the 143.625 mc is still in use. As in recent years the direct contact begins when MIR comes in range of the first groundstation (Yavpatoriya on the Crimea), which relays traffic to and from TsUP. This direct contact begins when MIR has its TCA over Holland. Until the return to earth of the previous MIR-crew (Volkov, Krikalyov and Polyakov on April 27th 1989 there always has been traffic from the beginning of the TCA. That part of the traffic used to be relayed to TsUP via the sovjet-tracking ship near Gibraltar (until 27th of Apr. the Kosmonavt Vladimir Komarov). For this traffic the 143.625 mc also was in use. After the launch of Soyuz-TMB to MIR it was obvious that there was no ship positioned near Gibraltar. So we miss the so important first part of the contact with TsUP. The reason for the deletion of that trackingship might be the reduction of expenses and/or the good functioning of a T.D.R.-satellite Geostationairy over the Western Hemisphere. Nevertheless the present crew often switches the 143.625 mc transmitter on long before MIR comes in range of TsUP and so -for instance during passes today- we can hear a lot of background noises: voices of Viktorenko and Serebrov, and sounds reaching MIR via their TsUP 'uplink', such as broadcast stations, radiotelephony in English (police of aviation a.s.o.). There are more changes: they nowadays use another transmitter, tuned on 143.621 mc, so appr. 4 kcs lower. The telemetry of MIR-until this month on 166.125 mc can now be heard around 166.130 mc and often the Telemetry sounds can be heard in the entire spectrum between 166.122 and 166.155 mc. There also is a strong 'peak' around 165.180 mcs.

**BUSY SQUIRRELS:** Radiotraffic thusfar revealed that the cosmonauts are very busy with a repair-, modification- and preparation program. The spare parts and new equipment they have to transfer from Progress-M1 to other compartments of the station. Among this all is a lot of hardware to upgrade the computersystems. They speak about installing the new "units" in several places, in the Base Block as well in the Kvant. That is why the spoke about moving around and working like squirrels (my rabotali kak belki). Apart from minor problems: water quality, the functioning of the toilet, temperatures, a.s.o. Viktorenko and Serebrov fully control the situation. There also is a lot of work in the astrophysical field. They use computer programs to activate and to aim the telescopes. During the passes to day they possibly used the upgraded computer for that purpose.

**INTERVIEW YELTSYN:** During the pass in orb. 20777, 1 oct. '89 (1626-1637UTC) on the background the interview of Yeltsyn during his visit to U.S.A. could be heard. This reached them via the T.D.R.S. When the contact with TsUP on 143 mc started TsUP promised them to give the rest of that interview on oct.2d.

**PRESS AND RADIO:** The weekly talk of a correspondent with the cosmonauts will in the coming weeks be with the journalist Bezhayev, for the correspondent who used to do this is ill. Bezhayev asked the cosmonauts about their opinion about the space budget, one of the items to be dealt with by the Supreme Soviet. Viktorenko did not want any reduction in the space-budget; Serebrov stated that in his opinion there had to be a lot more money for that purpose as in the West the expenses for space exploration are much higher than in the S.U.

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