

DOCKING KVANT-2 TO MIR FAILED.

During the pass in orb. 21741, 124420-124750UTC, the cosmonauts were preparing themselves and the equipment for the arrival of Kvant-2. They had be in the Soyuz-TM8 during the critical phases of the approach. From there they planned a TV report (via the ship Akademik Sergey Korolyov) at 1402UTC. At 1314UTC Kvant-2 had to make its first raw approach to the point from where the accurate docking operation had to begin. This had to be at 1345UTC. Docking was planned for 1420UTC. During the next pass (in orb. 21742, 1414-1425UTC) it was obvious that the operation failed. Viktorenko exchanged technical- and navigational data indicating that he had to put the systems back to normal. The cosmonauts and TsUP (where Dzhannibekov was in charge) expressed their disappointment, but kept good heart and worked operationally as demanded.

It was also obvious that the cosmonauts did a lot of manoeuvres with the MIR complex, they even used propellant for that. Later there was a statement that on a distance of 20 KM from MIR the Kvant-2's computer did not dare to continue the operation. The cosmonauts tried to help by changing attitude of their station (around the X- and Y-axes) and also to reactivate the Kurs approach system. It did not work.

NEXT ATTEMPT: Wednesday, 6th of Dec. 1989.

VISUAL OBSERVATIONS: It was possible to see MIR and Kvant-2 in the early evening hours. During the period in which the docking had to be performed your scribe coordinated with a group of visual observers of the Working Group Artificial Satellites in Ede (near the landing site of Market-Garden). During the pass in orb. 21743 (1555UTC) they confirmed that Kvant-2 and MIR still were independent. Less scilled people were able to observe that during the next orbits!

Kvant-2, Telemetry transmitter: Transmissions received. More observations needed before being sure about exact frequencies.

PROGRESS-M1: The undocking and putting on a destruction course was planned for Nov. 30th 1989. The day before the cosmonauts concluded their operations to make that possible. The undocking obviously took place on 30th Nov. but this was out of our range and so the exact time is still unknown.

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