

KVANT-2 DOCKED TO MIR.

On 6 Dec. 1989 at appr. 1222UTC Kvant-2 (Module-D) docked to the forward axial port of the MIR complex. During approach and docking the cosmonauts were in their 'lifeboat' Soyuz-TMB. From there they gave a TV report for the earth. They also reported the behaviour of Kvant-2 and their own station. The radiotraffic was on the frequency of S-TM 121.750mc. During the final stage of the approach the groundcontrol of Airport Rotterdam, working on 121.750 mc AM wide, suppressed the S-TMB signals and so only a little of traffic could be logged. During this pass something happened on the airport and several services had to rush to the place of that incident. The moment of 'kasaniye' (touch) was fully garbled by Rotterdam TWR. During the next pass the cosmonauts were back in the Base Block and could be heard on 143.625 mc again. During the rest of that day's passes the cosmonauts mentioned the checks they had to do after this successful docking. The solarpanel, which did not fully deploy after launch, but just one day before the first docking attempt on Dec. 2d, has been damaged by some attitude control rockets.

It is still unknown when Kvant-2 will be transferred (redocked) from the forward axial to a lateral port. Serebrov asked TsUP whether it will be possible to observe the damaged solar panel during that redocking as he wants to assess the damage.

7 December 1989: Everybody seems to optimistic. The cosmonauts did not yet enter the Kvant-2 during the second pass of today. During that pass they opened a valve to the Kvant-2 and checked the airpressure. Today it was very quiet in TsUP. This in contradiction to yesterday and -as the cosmonauts expect- tomorrow. So possibly an important operation. Redocking? We will wait and hear.

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