

KVANT-2 REDOCKED TO LATERAL PORT.

In the early morning hours of Dec. 8th 1989, while the MIR complex still orbited out of our range, this operation, lasting 60 minutes, was successfully executed.

In the radioconversations of Dec. 7th a lot of indications that this would be on the 8th could be heard. (Expected crowd in TsUP, the cosmonauts had to rise very early, the schedule for the radiotraffic via trackingships, a.s.o.)

During the first pass today (orb. 21833, 1024-1031UTC) the cosmonauts were in the P.Kh.O. (transition compartment) near the port to which the Kvant-2 had been transferred. They checked the air-seals. In the next pass (orb. 21834, 1157-1208UTC) they opened lids and hatches and soared into Kvant-2. They worked from there with the radio equipment they found and this worked very well. So the 'radiation pattern' of the antennae in this new configuration is excellent.

In the pass of 1332-1344UTC, orb. 21835, Viktorenko relayed TV recordings to the earth. These images were taken during radiosilence for TsUP. So Viktorenko explained the recordings and this gave us, more or less insiders, a good picture of the operation as such. It was possible to see the damage on the 'wounded' solarpanel. One of the sections at the foot (V. said 'root') had not been opened completely. The rest of the passes also showed a lot of interesting radiotraffic. It was much as the transmissions fully continued during the passes.

Tomorrow it is a working day for the cosmonauts and they will be very busy with checks and other work. Let us hope that they will have a day off next Sunday, 10 Dec., to read the post they got with Kvant-2. A day off is also welcome to your scribe as he deserves a day off after a long strenuous period. (Launch, problems during flight, failed docking, successful docking and the redocking.)

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