

MIRNEWS.019 12 DECEMBER 1989.

SOYUZ-TM8 TRANSFERRED FROM AFT DOCKING PORT TO FORWARD AXIAL PORT P.KH.O.

On 12 Dec. 1989 during orb. 21894, between 082050 and 082520UTC, there was radiotraffic on 121.750 mc and it was clear that the operation to transfer S-TM8 to the forward port was about to begin. 2 minutes later Viktorenko reported that they were autonomous and flying somewhat above MIR at the righthandside. They had a good view on the whole complex (MIR, Kvant-1 and Kvant-2) and observed the actions of the attitude control rockets. So in this case the 180 degrees turn of MIR to make docking position for S-TM8 comfortable, was executed not by Girodynes but by rockets. So there must be fuel consumption. In Holland we cannot expect any TV images of that operation as the Dutch media use to neglect MIR operations (above our heads!) totally. (with exception of the radioprogram Hobbyscoop) So let us hope the BBC will give attention to it. During the autonomous flight of S-TM8 Viktorenko was very active. Now and then Serebrov also could be heard.

During the next pass the operation was concluded successfully. (orb. 21895, 094550-1003UTC). For a short period the transmitter on 121.750 mc was still open, but at 0959UTC the cosmonauts were back in the Base Block and used 143 mc again. The 'conserved' the S-TM8 (switching off systems, closing hatches, a.s.o.) The check of the airseal was positive: almost no lost of pressure in the station. The Kurs approach system this time operated well. The aft docking port now is free for the reception of the freighter Progress-M2, probably to be launched on 15 Dec. '89, docking 17 Dec. '89. During the monitoring of the traffic on 121.750 mc I was lucky as the airport Rotterdam kept silent for a while!

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