

4th EVA (EXTRA VEHICULAR ACTIVITY) OF MIR CREW:

On Febr. 1th '90 Serebrov made a testflight with the SPK the "flying armchair" or "spacescooter". The operation started at about 0845UTC and was completed between 1245 and 1315UTC. The beginning took place during 2 orbits out of our range. During the pass in orb. 22692, 1241UTC, we could hear Serebrov commenting his manoeuvres with the SPK: he accelerated, flew with forced regime, decelerated, stopped, turned around, etc. He did this with little rocketmotors working on compressed air. Serebrov had left the complex via the airlock and hatch on Module-D. He flew away from the station and once a distance of 33 meters was reported. From the hatch Viktorenko assisted and controlled Serebrov, who was still attached to the station by a safety line. Viktorenko followed the operation with a TV camera. Nice images reached TsUP, and had been retransmitted by Soviet TV. The radiotraffic was loud and clear for apart from a communication to TsUP via a TDRS his radiotraffic also was relayed via the Transceiver of the MIR station. Serebrov was very pleased with his spacescooter and his spacesuit Orlan. TsUP had to warn him and to urge him to be careful. During the next pass (orb. 22693, 1415UTC) the cosmonauts were on board MIR and did their routinework as if nothing had be happened. During the following orb. (22694, 1556UTC) Viktorenko sent TV images to earth with his comment. (shots taken during periods in which the complex was out of range of TsUP.

NEXT (5TH) EVA:

Most likely on Monday Febr. 5th 1990. (Some sources still stick to previously announced Febr. 6th. During that EVA it is Viktorenko's turn to wander in open space with the SPK also with the use of a safety line.

ORBITCORRECTIONS:

Possibly again correction(s) these days, if so prediction not accurate until refreshment by new Kepler- or 2-line elements.

Chris van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202