

MIRNEWS.039 10 APRIL 1990.

LAUNCH MODULE-T (KRISTALL) POSTPONED:

Without any information about the cause the S.U. postponed the launch which had been re-scheduled to 9 April 1990. A few days ago they still spoke about 9 April 1990 with the remark that a delay might be possible. During radiotraffic on 8 April 1990 Solovyov asked about the Kristall. There were plans for 9 April 1990. A few times the cosmonauts spoke with TsUP via speech-scrambling.

NEW COMPUTER:

Radiotraffic revealed that checks on the new computersystem are still going on. This new computer has to control the attitude of the MIR complex after the arrival of Kristall and the new configuration of the complex when the Kristall has been docked. It might be possible that the delay has been caused by the rather late implementation of the new computer.

PROBLEMS:

On 8 and 9 April 1990 the cosmonauts reported that a little window had become filthy by an unknown substance or liquid. The window was used for work with the M.K.F. camera and this was almost impossible due to the pollution. Sometimes after a motorburn there is some pollution, but these spots were different. On 9 April 1990 the number of spots increased. As of 10 April the cosmonauts did not speak about the pollution anymore.

INKUBATOR:

All Japanese quails are dead. The chickens (6 out of 35 eggs) suffered from heavy stress and were unable to orientate and feed themselves. Soon after their birth 4 of them died, 2 lived somewhat longer due to the care of the cosmonauts. They also died. The cadavres have been conserved and will be studied on earth.

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