

INTERNATIONAL PRESS: AVALANCHE OF PANIC.

For insiders the deadlock caused by operational problems with 'ferry' or 'lifeboat' Soyuz-TM9 is already wellknown for a long time. We still have to wait for decisions to be made. Some declarations of the cosmonaut Serebrov during a visit to the U.S.A. have been misunderstood by reporters and this caused a wave of alarming messages on 18 May 1990: 'MIR cosmonauts stranded in space'. Listeners and viewers got the impression that as of 17 May 1990 a state of emergency existed on board MIR. If this would be the case the Russian certainly would have sent a Soyuz-TM-ship to MIR instead of Progress-42. Some necessary operations have to be carried out before the possible launch of Kristall (Module-T), i.e. the undocking and decay of Progress-42 and the redocking of S-TM9 from forward to aft docking port. The cosmonauts indeed make haste with the unloading of Pr-42, but it is obvious that the Russians do not want to execute a redocking flight with the loose thermal insulation. As long as a redocking is not possible all original plans have to be put back.

INFORMATION: This weekend I did all what I could to guide foreign and national media from sensation to information. Here and there I succeeded, but unfortunately not in my own country.

RADIOTRAFFIC:

The best way to determine the real situation is the monitoring of radiotraffic. There has been a lot of traffic, but there was no panic at all.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Controlling the attitude of the complex as to keep S-TM9 in the shadow of the complex. 2. More physical exercises. 3. Medical experiments among which working with the Chibis suite (a system to control the bloodcirculation such that the heart already can adapt to the work in gravity.) 4. Operations with the solarpanels to try to get a better power supply (voltages were too low).

EVA: No preparations thusfar for such an activity, needed for the fixing of the thermal cover S-TM9. This operation must be hazardous as S-TM9 has no support hand rails.

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