

2D EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITY MIR-CREW:

The MIR-crew executed their second emergency spacewalk today (26 July 1990). They removed a ladder and equipment, left behind after their 1st spacewalk and succeeded in closing the hatch of the Module-D (Kvant-2) airlock (S.Sh.O.). The EVA began at 1115UTC and lasted until 1446UTC. During the first pass at 1326UTC Solovyov could be heard while he was still outside the station. During the next pass (orbit 25426, 1456-1505UTC. The cosmonauts were inside Module-D and had closed the hatch. They were checking the increase of airpressure in the airlock (S.Sh.O.) and the Instrument-Scientific compartment (P.N.O.). They had to be sure that the hatch had been closed hermetically. This has been confirmed by the cosmonauts and TsUP. The cause of the problems with the hatch was still unknown, so possibly the next crew will have to pay further attention to it. The hatch of the Module-D opens to the outside. This is technically more complicated than hatches which are opened to the inside. A cosmonaut on TsUP said that it might be possible that the cosmonauts during their first EVA did something wrong with the hatch. The ladder used during the first EVA had to be removed as it might jeopardize undocking- and docking operations. They decided to store the ladder inside the station and not let it drift away as the ladder might be useful in the future.

PLANS FOR NEAR FUTURE:

The Soviets still stick to the launch of Soyuz-TM10 on 1 Aug. 1990, docking of that ship with MIR on 3 Aug. 1990 and the returnflight for Solovyov and Balandin in their S-TM9 (which they consider to be fully reliable for the descent operation.

RELIEF CREW:

The relief crew, Manakov and Strekalov will remain on board for 132 days. The crew relieving Manakov and Strekalov will ferry a Japanese journalist to MIR for a short stay on board.

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