

ORBITCORRECTIONS: With the engines of freighter Progress-M4 the station has been brought higher orbits. This has been done 3 times: 22 Aug., 3 Sept and 11 Sept. 1990. After the 1st 2 alterations we tried to calculate a new Keplerset (with the use of my TCA-s and LOS-s), but all attempts set out to be in vain on 11Sept. Meanwhile Wim Holwerda (Workinggroup Art. Satellites), using my TCA-s and LOS-s succeeded in this and so we have a provisional Keplerset which was almost accurate until 17 Sept inc.: Epoch 90.254.8118054, Decayrate 0.0002, RAAN 252.5, Incl. 51.6, Arg. Per 5, MA 355, ECC 0.001, MM 15.5845, orb. nr. 26163.

RETURNMODULE: During the last days the cosmonauts were very active with the final operations on Progress-M4 This freighter had to be prepared for undocking and decay. In my opinion (based on radiotraffic) this has to happen one of these days. (A lot of publications report the possibility of undocking on abt. 25 Sept. I do not agree). During radiotraffic and a TV report they spoke about the returncapsule. They will test this system this time. So they will not try to send back to earth valuable materials. During the TV session they spoke about the capsule, which has been painted red. The work on the Progress-M4 caused a delay in other necessary activities, for instance physical training. The cosmonauts promised to catch up with those activities after the departure of Pr-M4.

VISUAL PASSES: The passes begin in the evening and so within a few days (clouds permitting) we can see the MIR complex after sunset. Now we already have radiotraffic during the first 2 or 3 passes.

PLANS NEAR FUTURE: Before next month the launch of Progress-M5 for a flight to the forward docking port of MIR (P.Kh.O.). This Progress M will be equipped with a returncapsule. If the experiment with the returncapsule of Pr-M4 will be successful the capsule of Pr-M5 will be used operationally. In the beginning of Oct. 1990 the cosmonauts will make a spacewalk (EVA) to repair the defect hinch of Module-D's exit port.

LATEST NEWS;

17 Sept. 1990:

- a. Progress-M4 undocked from MIR today at 1443UTC for an indepent flight until 20 Sept. 1990.
- b. During this flight experiments with an instrument on Pr-M4 s outside (plasm formations).
- c. They did not speak about the returncapsule.
- d. During the eveninghours Progress-M4 could be heard on 922.755 mc and 166.160 mc (no signals on HF beacon frequencies).

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