

MIRNEWS.081

3 JANUARY 1991

RUSS. ORTH. CHRISTMAS ON 7 JANUARY AGAIN:

The soviet government proclaimed the 7th January to be an official holiday due to the Christmas of the Russian Orthodox Church. Normally the soviets do not program launches of satellites on Sundays and holidays. (With the exception of launches without alternative windows, i.e. manned flights.) So possibly the launch of the GEOS, R-M1 and RUDAK-2 will be postponed or put forward, there are already rumours about 6 Jan. 1991. So we have to wait and to monitor the nets around 14.280 mc and the beaconfrequencies 145.822 mc (CW) and 145.952 mc (Digital F.S.K.). It is getting time now to reward the enormous work and patience of the builders of R-M1 and Rudak-2 with a launch. The last launch had been postponed due to fact the a dignitary from Moscow who wished to observe the launch was unable to come. Must be a very important dignitar, possibly of the important customer in the future: the Russian Federation.

EXTRA VEHICULAR ACTIVITY:

The 7 Jan. holiday possibly does not effect the EVA planned for that day. Afanasyev and Manarov are preparing themselves for that EVA. On 2 Jan. 1991 they already checked the air-seal of their space-suits. Officially the EVA has been announced for 7 Jan. 1991. If the EVA lasts long enough we can hear the EVA-radiotraffic during the first passes of MIR on 7 Jan. 1991. If the cosmonauts succeed in repairing the hatch of the Module-D we can expect another 5 or 6 EVA-s of this crew.

SAL-7/K-1686: In a few days we can visually observe this complex during the first hours after sunset. Let us hope that the weather will permit us to do this last visual observations of Sal-7/C-1686.

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last visual observations of Sal-7/C-1686.

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