

21 JUNE 1991

MIR-CREW LAUNCHES LITTLE SATELLITE:

On 17 June 1991 during first pass over here the crew was preparing the launch of a little satellite (MAK Miniature Autonomous Container). About this launch dense radiotraffic between 0253 and 0300UTC. The launch took place at 025747UTC. In fact the MAK was jettisoned via the airlock of Module-D. The MAK had some scientific equipment on board for astro-physical experiments (Gammaray-spectrometer) and a radiobeacon. The antennae did not deploy and the satellite still in the orbit MIR had that day is lost. During the radiotraffic after launch Krikalyov reported that he did not see that it deployed (certainly meaning the antennae). The MAK was one of 2 little satellite delivered to MIR by Progress-M8.

EXTRA VEHICULAR ACTIVITY:

For a long time the cosmonauts had been involved in the repair and replacement of systems on board the complex, especially the life-supporting systems: ventilators, filters, water regenerations devices, but also in the electronic field. They had problems with a TV transceiver. From 19 June the crew is checking the spacesuits and training for the first EVA. This will take place in the evening of 24 June 1991 (UTC). Progress-M8 delivered a new antenna for the Kurs system on Kvant-1. Today (21/6) Artsebarskiy worked on that antenna in the airlock of Module-D.

Chris v.d. Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202