

34NEWS.MIR

15 MAY 1988.

PROGRESS-36 DOCKED TO MIR AT 0213UT TODAY.

The execution of the docking operation 1 day later was very favourably for our geographical position as the "approach pass" now fully fell within our "radio window". If this operation had been performed yesterday monitoring of that essential pass would have been impossible! Now I again enjoyed the wellknown schedule, so the first pass of the 24 hrs sequence and after loss of signal 7 or 8 minutes before docking. So now it was worthwhile to sacrifice a few hours sleep.

During the pass in orbit 12861 the transmitter worked (from 0159-0206UT) and now Titov reported the attitude changes and the fuel consumption to TsUP. For instance at 0202UT: Omega Ypsilon 2/10 Z 7/100 Fuel consumption 73.4, heading 06 Pitch 05. TsUP asked something about the horizon and Manarov told them 1.1. and 2.5. At 0203UT Titov reported that the Ypsilon gradually increased and he supposed that this meant a revolution (turning of Progress-36). TsUP confirmed this it "turned" and "returned". As during previous dockings the Telemetry transmitter on 166.125mc did not work. After passing the horizon it lasted another 7 minutes before the docking was completed (in my previous report I estimated this to be appr. 0214UT, so a nice result for this humble SWL)

Again I missed the enthusiasm of their predecessors. During the flight of Ridenko the passes after dockings were joyful happenings. During the next pass they just had switched on their transmitter but did not say a word. The report about the "locks" (against spontaneous undocking) came in the pass in orbit 12863 from 0506-0516UT. The fact that they received letters, paper and photographs was mentioned in a contact with a control ship from 0810-0826UT. During the last passes they had conversations with their relatives (with duplex TV). Gradually the windows will occur during nighthours and so we will have to wait for a more active period when the first windows shift to the evening hours. That is necessary as on 7 June we will have to monitor launch and flight of Soyuz-TM with 3 men on board!

Greetings and radio amateurs, 73-s.

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