

EVA (spacewalk) on 20 Oct. '88 and what happened afterwards:

- a. During the EVA the cosmonauts used suits of a new type. They used the opportunity of the EVA for a practice test. The suit is more flexible than previous types and is better for "autonomical" operations during EVA-s.
- b. However the repair of the detector-unit of the TTM telescope had been a success from a material point of view, we still had to wait for the results of final test of the functioning of the Telescope itself. We had to wait a couple of days before they concluded the tests. In the course of Oct. 24th they were involved in this. Next day the good functioning of the Dutch-British telescope was confirmed officially. WELL DONE REBYATA!!  
MOLODTSY!

MIR communications:

- a. A lot of radio traffic between MIR and tracking ships (Komarov and Korolyov). During the periods in which those contacts could be heard there had been a change in the frequencies in use by Telemetry beacons. Instead of 165.875 and 166.125mc, the beacons could be heard on +/- 166.138 and 166.150mc. The ships possibly proceeded to other positions to be operational during the oncoming test flight of the KOSMOLYOT (SPACE SHUTTLE) "BURAN".
- b. The cosmonauts during the last days complain a lot about the fact the the Telemetry does not always give the right data. They are sure about differences, also when medical data are transferred. Titov said that their opinion had been based on an experience of 10 months. He and Manarov urged TsUP to take measures for the transfer of important data, for instance Electro Cardiograms, only in "zones" where radio communication is sure for 100%. (Possibly this had been the real cause for the return long before schedule of Laveykin in 1987, due to "hearth complaints". There was nothing wrong with Laveykin's hearth and he is sure to make 3 other space flights in future.)
- c. Apart from 143.625mc MIR is also transmitting on several other frequencies. The conversations of the cosmonauts on 143.625mc (V.H.F.-1) confirm this. They communicate (or test) channels via T.D.R.S.-s (Luch -in the past, but they still use that word-, and Strela. They also mention a frequency, V.H.F.-2, and use this when also the 143.625mc transmitter is working. Via V.H.F.2 they transmit medical data and -possibly- confidential information. Today (26th of Oct.) for instance, Polyakov was training on one of the hometrainers and the cardiological data reached TsUP via V.H.F.-1. During the pass in which this took place I scanned all possible frequencies but did not meet the familiar "cardio cassette sounds". (If there is anybody with suggestions in this field:  
PLEASE, PLEASE, INFORM ME!!)

PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE:

- a. Saturday, Oct. 29th '88, after several delays, the launch of an Energiya rocket from Baykunur to bring in a orbital testflight the sovjet Kosmolyot (Space shuttle) BURAN. Launch time: 0326UT. Unmanned flight, computercontrolled, 2 or 3 orbits. Possibly with a low orbit and a period of 88 or 89 minutes. After the pass over or in the neighbourhood of Buran in a 3d orbit, the descend and approach has to begin for a landing on a Baykunur airstrip 9 minutes later. So if the Buran will make 2 orbits, this is a pity as it will impossible to sleuth for beacon and/or Telemetry frequencies. Those frequencies have not officially been announced.

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With great reservation we might check the following frequencies:

HF: 19.995 mc, 19.988 mc, 20.004mc and 20.008 mc.

VHF: + and - 166 mc and on 192.040 mc.

If they use T.V. transmissions the number of possible frequencies is too great to give in this report.

During the launch of Buran MIR is aiming in the direction of Baykunur and passing the Turkish-Syrian border. So the MIR cosmonauts might be able to see the take off at their horizon. As MIR already has the 1st cosmic speed it can catch up with Buran for a while. Buran will be for a short period below MIR. So the cosmonauts are already making preparations for some photo sessions.

b. The launch of Soyuz-TM7 on Nov. 21st '88 at 1750UT, arrival and docking to MIR (Kvant docking port) on Nov. 23d at 1900UT. (Before that MIR will have to alter its orbit to make sure that that schedule is right)

(However rumours are trying to suggest a change in launch date of Soyuz-TM7: i.e. on Nov. 26th 1988, due to a visit of the French president Mitterand to Baykunur.)

c. Crews Soyuz-TM7: Capt. Volkov, board engineer Krykalov and the Frenchman Jean-Loup Chretien. Stand-in crew: Viktorenko, Serebrov and the Frenchman Tognini.

d. EVA of the Frenchman with Volkov (or if stand-in Viktorenko) Dec. 9th, '88 at 1018UT. During this EVA the French cosmonaut will install a gridantenna with a diameter of 3.8 M. He will install this ERA system -a French experiment- on the P.Kh.O. (the ball-shaped Transition compartment).

e. Returnflight with Soyuz-TM6 of Titov, Manarov and Chretien (or: Tognini) on Dec. 21st '88. Volkov and Krykalov (or: Viktorenko and Serebrov) and the physician Polyakov will stay onboard MIR until April or May 1989. So no endurance record attempt in that stage.

SHCHUKIN: Sovjet shuttle pilot and cosmonaut SHCHUKIN died Aug. 18th 1988 in the crash of his fighter Sukhoy-36 during a stunt or acrobatic flight. Shchukin had been stand-in for the crew of Soyuz-TM4 21st of December 1987. If necessary he then had to replace Levchenko. Shchukin survived his good colleague Levchenko for 14 days. Let us hope that this news of SHCHUKIN'S dead just before the launch of Buran will not be a "plokhoye predznamenovaniye" (a bad omen).

Greetings,  
Chris van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202.