

=FLASH=

MIR TRANSFERRED TO HIGHER ORBIT ON 20 NOV. 1988.

Undoubtedly an altitude change of MIR had to be executed these days to make a successful rendez-vous with Soyuz-TM7 possible on 28 November 1988. We did not know whether this would be a higher or lower orbit. Rendez-vous windows were possible with both options. So now we are sure: the Progress-38, still attached to the Kvant aft docking port, used its engine to give MIR some dozens of Kilometers more in altitude. Very soon Progress-38 will undock and burn up in the Earth's atmosphere. This is necessary for the Kvant aft port has to be free for the Soyuz-TM7. The most recent Kepler sets, also that of Epoch day 317 (published in this weekends AD-11 bulletin) from now on only can be used after a correction of +7 minutes daily. (So add 7/1440). Correcting only the Epoch means that the rest of the elements remain unchanged and so the Keplers are no longer accurate for predicting (elevation, distance, azimuth etc.). Don't worry, as Nico/PAODLO or myself -or we both- hope to provide you with new Keplers a.s.a.p. MIR's first pass on 21 Nov. will be between 2025 and 2035UT. If there is no radiotraffic on 143.625 mc it can help to check the Telemetry tx on 166.125mc a few minutes before expected LOS.

A few additional remarks:

1. Today the cosmonauts are still working on Progress-38 (loading and unloading!).
2. MIR's passes these days in evening hours. The passes around 2000UT possibly give Radiotraffic.
3. Manarov already has been active with radio amateurs on the Western hemisphere, out of our range, due to night passes here. His English is said to be very good and he used the 145.550mc in "simplex", so not using other frequencies for the uplinks.
4. After the imminent undocking of Progress-38 orbit changes are no longer possible.

Greetings,
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