

SOYUZ-TM7 LAUNCHED FOR FLIGHT TO MIR 26 NOV. 1988 AT 1549UT:

Lift-off without problems. At 1557UT S-TM7 separated from last (3d) rocket stage and became a satellite. Orbit on ap/per 240/200KM. In the night 2 minor orbit corrections were necessary and at appr. 2049UT and 2146UT the S-TM7 engine worked for a while. About these manoeuvres the cosmonauts spoke with TsUP on their frequency 121.750 mc.

Radiotraffic: During passes this traffic could be heard: orb. 2, 1848-1854UT, orb. 3, 2022-2026UT, orb. 4, 2155-2200UT and orb. 5, 2326-2332UT. So this radio telephony on 121.750 mc FM during which the cosmonauts used the callsign DONBAS (so Volkov, Donbas-1 and Krikalyov Donbas-2, so possibly "general" Jean-Loup Chretien will have Donbas-3). In some sectors of the 166 mc range (among which 166.138mc) again the strong Telemetry TX working continuously, but varying in strength (spin?). Sometimes the conversations on 121.750mc faded away. It was obvious that all was well with Volkov, Krikalyov and Chretien. They did a lot with the OBC (computer, named "Chayka"). They spoke about the preparations for the engine burns for orbit corrections. They spoke about the 1st and 2d impuls and afterwards they spoke about the results. Again by S.I.R.T. (sistema izmereniya raskhoda tyopleva) they measured the fuelconsumption (after 2d impuls 711 KG). Also a speed around the Z-axis was mentioned (Omega Zeta 0.85 per second). During a conversation about those "impulses" they referred to a time: 111017UT, possibly the important last orbit correction in the midst of the ferryflight on 27 Nov. 1988.

Docking with MIR on 28 Nov. 1988:

This will take place at appr. 1725UT, when MIR and S-TM7 left us behind the horizon 6 minutes before. (This is a fact meanwhile well-known by experience with several dockings). From 1712-1719UT we -this is for QTH-s in the Netherlands- can expect radiotraffic on 121.750 mc in which the Donbasy report attitude data a.s.o. and the Okeany in MIR on 143.625mc sometimes giving their observations. Soyuz-TM7 will dock to the Kvant aft docking port. This port is free to receive a new s/c as on 23 Nov. at 1215UT Progress-38 undocked from there to be put on a destruction course and "finished its existence".

Future of the stand-in crew (Viktorenko and Serebrov): A slip of the tongue of a Russian commentator (he tried to swallow the first sentence of his statement!) revealed that Viktorenko and Serebrov are candidates for the crew that will relieve Volkov and Krikalyov in April 1989. Tognini will not be a member of that crew as the flight in April 1989 has nothing to do with the Interkosmos program. There are also rumours that Tognini's career as a cosmonaut is finished ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> an eye-disease revealed recently and confirmed by a French physician.

This time no English version of the file in Dutch 54NEWS.MIR, meanwhile outdated.