

30YUZ-TM7 DOCKED TO MIR (KVANT AFT DOCKING PORT) ON 28-XI-'88 AT 1715UT.

During the pass in orb. nr. 15975 (1713-1719UT) radiotraffic revealed the final phase of the docking operation. It was also obvious that the docking itself even might take place before LOS! At 1714UT the distance to MIR was only 13 M and the approach speed was given in CM/SEC. The "roll" already had been reduced to 0. And indeed they did not wait with the docking until TV communications were possible (as they usually do). The reason was the flawless approach and the fact that this would give some extra minutes for the crews. At 1715UT the docking was there which could be derived from statements like: "we expect contact any moment", "we attached to the station" and "we established the mechanical contact". During the operation Volkov (Donbas1) read out the approach- and attitude data, assisted by Krikalyov (Donbas2), as well as by Chretien (Donbas3). They expressed their joy, and there were congratulations. TsUP ordered them to continue their work according to instructions, thus emphasizing that the period immediately after docking was still very crucial. Chretien switched off the search lights and they wrote down the pressure in the different compartments. This revealed the fact that during the operation the hatch from the S.A. (spuskayemiy apparat - landing module) to the B.O. (bytovoy otsek - life compartment) was closed: the pressures differed (resp. 790 and 850 MM), while the pressure aboard MIR was 690 MM.

Radiotraffic: The S-TM7 crew used the c/s DONBAS, so certainly Chretien will transfer his c/s, Donbas-3 to Polakov as in the period until April 1989 the crew will use DONBAS (Titov, Manarov and Polyakov used OKEAN). On the MIR frequ. 143.625 mc I did not hear traffic, but the TX had been switched on. The strong Telemetry transmitter of S-TM7 could be heard in several sectors of the 166 mc among which +/- 166.138mc.

In the pass during orb. 15975 (1845-1854UT) both crews waited for the moment at which the last hatch could be opened. Volkov closed his transmissions on 121.75 mc. Titov and Manarov entered the Kvant module to meet the Donbasy and Polyakov remained in the R.O. (rabochiy otsek - work compartment) on radio watch. After establishing T.V. contact and adjusting the camera the normal session for the press, among which declarations and greetings to Gorbachov and Mitterand. (LOS

During the next pass (orb. 15976/15977 2023-2030UT) Volkov and Titov spoke with TsUP about technical matters in relation to the recent docking. So far the brief report. There is still a lot of analysing to be done!

Keep you all informed!

Greetings, and 73-s,  
Chris van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202.