

EVA (extra vehicular activity) from MIR 9-XII-1988:

PREPARATIONS: Radiotraffic before the EVA revealed a lot about checking and showing equipment and trying clothing. The spacesuits were of new type with a better flexibility. Titov helped the "EVA-men" in this phase as he already has experience with 3 EVA-s. He had a lot of remarks about the bad care of the experts on earth for this EVA: measures were wrong and the inventarisation not accurate. There had also been a change in EVA duration (30 mins less; in fact the EVA lasted 2 hours longer!).

ORDRE DE BATAILLE:

Volkov and Chretien to do the EVA via the P.Kh.O. (transition section).

Krikalyov: observation and control of operation from MIR.

Manarov: on board Soyuz-TM6 to be able to evacuate Volkov and Chretien in case of emergency.

Titov: radio- and television links.

Polyakov: watching medical data of V. and Chr.

EVA: lasted 5 hrs 57 mins (2 hours more than planned). Opening outer hatch: 0957UT, attaching porthole protection ring at 1006UT. After this Chretien leaves the P.Kh.O. Volkov will hand over equipment a.s.o. and follows Chr. in 20 mins.

1. pass (orb. 16144, 1229-1235UT): Cheerful workers outside MIR, a lot of humor, V. singing a song about a young Kozak wandering through the world. V. adds: "that's me". Little problems, not bothering the cosmonauts very much: Chr. some humidity inside his helmet, V. sometimes blinded by sunlight. TsUP warns Chr. for somewhat, V. waves it away with a joke.

2d pass (orb. 16145, 1402-1411UT): Chr. reports problems with the structure (ERA) which they have to install outside: it does not fold open as planned. After advice and instructions of TsUP and involvement of Krikalyov this happens to work after a long time. So the EVA lasted longer for which this problem (partly) was to blame.

3d pass (orb. 16146, 1537-1546UT): Chr. takes some pictures with his Hasselblad and they return to the P.Kh.O. Volkov is already inside P.Kh.O. at 1546UT, Chr. cannot go on, stuck to something with his back. Volkov advises and helps Chr. and laughing this problem is coped with. Volkov reports that they fulfilled the whole program with the exception of the Medusa. However the return had to be executed in a hurry as the lifesystems during an EVA have an endurance of 6 hours!

The 2 extra hours delivered more radiotraffic, this time very interesting with a lot of "communication aspects".

Finally Polyakov reported about health and mental situation of Volkov and Chretien: very tired, shoulders and hands painful, as usual, but in a good mood and healthy. They already were doing physical exercises.

Greetings, and 73-s,

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