

NEWSMIR.061 22 DECEMBER 1988.

(NEWSMIR.060 incorporated in this file)

RETURN SOYUZ-TM6 TO EARTH ON 22 DEC. 1988.

Landing 180 KM from Dzheskazgan at 0957UTC.

As soon as we heard that the return had been postponed we had reason to expect bad news, but as ultimately all went well, we got a possibility to receive radiotraffic, we never got before! The original plan was to land at appr. 0650UT and that is just before the stations come in our range. Now we had two passes with radiotraffic! MIR and Soyuz-TM6 had communications with TsUP in the same period, 0928-0937UTC:

S-TM6: 0928-0935UT: Manarov: Guided descend is there, our little machine worked smoothly, is not it? (the engine worked between 0909 and 0912 and 43 secs. UTC)

0932UT: Titov: The Okeany are now on an altitude of 159 KM at 1232MT (0932UT). The separation is switched on and works, guided descend is now going on. All is stable!

0935UT: Loss of S-TM6 signals (also those on 166.138mc) (S-TM6 started to enter atmosphere at 0939UTC!)

MIR: Volkov asks whether the separation is in good order and says to have received signals. He is very pleased that the operation is proceeding well, but it would be better that the "boys" already were flying to Moscow. V. asks the time of the S-TM6 entering the atmosphere. TsUP: 1239MT (so 0939UT)

Some remarks: The Okeany went to the Spacecentre near Moscow instead of (as usual) going to Baykunur. This to be able to give them a better care (necessary after a flight of 366 days) and better facilities.

MIR flight goes on:

REDOCKING SOYUZ-TM7 FROM KVANT AFT PORT TO P.KH.O. FRONT PORT IN THE MORNING OF 22 DEC. 1988:

Operation executed by Volkov and Krikalyov while Polyakov was watching them. V. and K. were very enthusiastic. During passes that day a lot of conversation about the conservation of the S-TM7. This has been done by Krikalyov. There also has been a short conversation with correspondent Vladimir Bezhayev.

LAUNCH OF PROGRESS-39 (FREIGHTER) TO MIR WITHIN A FEW DAYS:

This is possible as the Kvant port is free now.