

NEWSMIR.072 12 FEBRUARY 1989

(NEWSMIR.071 inserted in this file)

PROGRESS-40:

Launch to MIR from Baykonur on Febr. 10th. at 0854UTC. During a conversation between MIR and the ship K.V.K. that day at 1544UTC MIR confirmed that TsUP was sure that Pr-40 was proceeding as planned. (Predicted arrival near MIR between 1019-1025UTC on 12 Febr. and docking appr. 1031UTC.)

PROGRESS-40 docked with MIR 12 Febr. 1989 at 1030UTC. In the pass during orb. 17167 (1016-1025UTC) cosmonauts commented the approach of the Pr-40. (Angles, Omega-Z and distances in meters -300 meters before LOS.) TsUP reported that mooring was going on.

In pass on orb. 17168 (1051-1200UTC) radiotraffic with K.V.K. (ship) confirmed that docking was accomplished and that cosmonauts were about to check the air-seal with a manometer and after that to open the hatch. They checked the air-seal with a hand manometer as checking this by Telemetry would take a lot of time.

On the next orbit (17169, 1324-1335UTC) everything was in good order: the hatch had been opened and clean and fresh air reached the cosmonauts from out the Pr-40. There was the smell of apples and they referred to Calvados wines. They did use the protection glasses and oxygenmasks just for a short time. It lasted several hours before Moscow confirmed the successful docking.

PLANS FOR NEXT FUTURE CHANGED:

On 12 Febr. Moscow confirmed the fact that there will be no EVA this month. The launch of the huge technical module next March has been cancelled or postponed due to technical problems. The last days during radiotraffic the cosmonauts often had to switch over to the 2d regime, thus to scramble the radioconversations. Plain language conversations revealed that the cosmonauts had to cope with technical problems. Sometimes their voices sounded a little bit "dreary".

Greetings,
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