

NEWSMIR.076 5 MARCH 1989

PROGRESS-40 UNDOCKED FROM MIR ON 3 MARCH 1989:

Already on 2d of March the cosmonauts spoke about important work to be done with Progress-40 on 3d March. Krikalyov spoke as if he was following the manoeuvres of a s/c, but he probably was practising on a computer that, what had to be done on 3d March. He spoke about being in the 'indication regime' (indikatornyy rezhim).

After the undocking of Progress-40 on 3d March this s/c remained in the vicinity of MIR. The following activities could be derived from traffic:

1. A turn around of the MIR complex of which TV images were taken by a camera on board Progress-40 and transmitted to MIR.
2. During 'turn around' the Girodynes possibly switched off.
3. Cosmonauts took a lot of pictures of Progress-40 by several camera-s and objectives.
4. The main experiment (possible codename 'Pegasus') had something to do with structures attached to Progress-40 which could be deployed by radio commands from MIR. They spoke about 'ears', so possibly earshaped structures, 2 of which could be seen by cosmonauts. The cosmonauts reported the deployments.

PROGRESS-40 STILL FLEW AUTONOMOUSLY ON 4 MARCH 1989:

So this time not an immediate decay, but a TsUP controlled flight to continue experiments. This day no official confirmation of any decay of Pr-40. Now and then cosmonauts mentioned visual observations.

PROGRESS-40 DECAYED ON 5 MARCH 1989:

This happened in the early morning (or very late the evening before) and Pr-40 burnt up in the atmosphere. Possibly outside range of MIR as cosmonauts slept during night- and morninghours.

AM\_ EUR RADIOTRAFFIC FROM MIR:

During a short pass on 5 March 1989 (orb. 17497, appr. 1034UTC) elevation 0 degrees Volkov could be heard on 145.550MC using c/s U4MIR and his name Aleksandr.

LAUNCHWINDOWS PROGRESS-41:

- 7 March appr. 2204UTC.
- 9 March appr. 2203UTC.
- 16 March appr. 1900UTC.
- 18 March appr. 1820UTC.
- 20 March appr. 1740UTC.

Greetings,  
Chris van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202