

NEWSMIR.082 11 APRIL 1989:

MIR WILL BE UNMANNED AS OF 27 APRIL 1989:

The present crew will return to earth on 27 Apr. 1989 with the Soyuz-TM7. So again an enormous change in plans. So no launch of Soyuz-TM8 with Viktorenko and Balandin on 19 Apr. 1989.

During the last weeks I was earwitness of conversations in which a lot of problems were discussed.

1. Power supply of the station: often Voltages too low (25 or 26 V instead of 28.5 V).

2. High humidity.

3. For a long period very high temperatures forcing crew to use extra ventilators, even handheld.

4. A water leakage threatening electrical wires and contacts. (Same problem in the past during Titov's flight)

On 7 April a lot messages in which "orders". (Training for the descent to earth, checking spacesuits. etc. TsUP said that groups of experts were evaluating the "new situation".

In contacts with the Kosmonavt V. Komarov the change in plans and going home mentioned about several times. So in fact I was waiting for a message like this: no relief crew; and MIR for a period in an automatic mode.

As far as my opinion about the change in plans I stuck out my neck:

Russians sources say that the reason has something to do with the delay in launches of the D and T modules. Thusfar no news from others confirming my conclusions.

MIR IN HIGHER ORBIT ON 10 APRIL 1989:

Using the engines of Progress-41 MIR had been put in a considerably higher orbit in the afternoon of 10 Apr.

2-line elements for the new orbit:

Epoch: 89,101.64766233

Drag: 0.00020915

Incl. 51.625

RAAN: 335.9803

ECC. 0.0013074

Arg. Per: 184.7232

MA: 175.4300

MM: 15.62365631

Rev. nr.: 18082.

Greetings,

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