

MIRNEWS.002 24 AUGUST 1989.

1. The launch from Baykonur of a freighter Progress-M took place on 23 Aug. 1989 at 0310UTC for a flight of 2-days to MIR. This Progress-M is the first one of a new type. "M" stands for "modified". The flight will also be used for the testing of systems (solar-batteries, computers, docking devices, u.s.o.)

For Progress ships the following frequencies are in use: 19.954, 166 and 922.755 mc. (During some passes of Progress-M on 24 Aug. 1989 I logged strong signals on 165.885, 166.140 and 922.755 mc (+ and - for doppler shift!)

2. On 23 Aug. 1989 the crews for the Soyuz-TMB mission on 5/6 Sept. arrived in Baykonur for their final training. The crews are: Viktorenko and Aleksandrov (so Serebrov has been replaced by Aleksandrov), stand-in crew: Solovyov and Balandin.

The reason for the replacement of Serebrov has not been reported. There are some possibilities:

a. Serebrov's health. (In the past S. once had been replaced for that reason), or

b. a lot of repairs have to be done on board MIR and Aleksandrov is a good expert on electrical systems and solar-batteries, or

c. again delay of the launch of the Module-D. For this module Serebrov is the expert. He was appointed for een EVA with the space scooter.

Chris v.d. Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202