

SOYUZ-TMB DOCKED WITH MIR.

DOCKING: The docking took place on 7 Sept 1989 at 2225UTC. So actually during orb. 20406 as I expected in contradiction to many others. (Moscow predicted docking during orb. 20407, at abt. 2400 hrs.) During docking operation it was on orb. 32 of Soyuz-TMB. So somewhat later than the estimated time in MIR.005. Probably this had something to do with the malfunction in the final stage of the Kurs system. Viktorenko had to do the last meters and the docking itself manually. Immediately after the docking and the check on the hermetic seal Viktorenko and Serebrov went on board MIR. They docked to the Kvant aft docking port. The axial port of the transition section (P.Kh.O.) is still occupied by the freighter PROGRESS-M1.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COSMONAUTS:

During the first orb. after docking (20407, 2343-2352UTC) radiotelephony on both frequencies (121.750 and 143.625 mc). Viktorenko said that he wished to get accustomed to the VHF-system on board MIR. They both were very satisfied about the situation on board MIR, all was clean, the air was fresh and they were very happy to have more room. They emphasised the difference between the room of S-TMB and MIR. During this pass they were still working on the conservation of the ship S-TMB and on command of TsUP they switched on several systems on board MIR.

2D DAY FERRYFLIGHT SOYUZ-TMB:

During the passes in the night from 6 to 7 Sept. 1989 the cosmonauts were still awake as they had to undergo some automatically controlled orbit corrections. These had to be done to make the planned rendez-vous with MIR. (orb. 17 2321-2325UTC en oml. 18 0056-0101UTC) The cosmonauts spoke to each other with an open microphone. After the last pass they went asleep. Towards sunrise both spacecraft could be observed visually. Soyuz-TMB was overhead at 0407UTC, 10 minutes behind MIR.

ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH:

As soon as possible unload Progress-M1 to make undocking and decay possible. This to make redocking of S-TMB to axial port of the P.Kh.O. (transition section). (Problems can be expected as Kurs did not work satisfactorily during docking last night. After this they have to prepare themselves for the reception of the first huge (20 tons) Module D with the "space bicycle" to be used by Serebrov during EVA-s.

MONITORING RADIOTRAFFIC:

So again on 143.625mc FM-N. It might be possible that the use of communications via T.D.R.S-s will be increased. Telemetry can be heard on the well known frequencies around 166 mc.

SALYUT-7: The beacon transmitttr (named MAYAK) on 19.954 mc aboard Salyut-7/Cosmos-1686 ceased working on or about 23d of August 1989. My many watch hours during the Soyuz-TMB operations made checking of that beacon possible. It did not resume transmissions. Very disappointing as this beacon was used by a lot of interested radio amateurs and ionosphere researchers.

(There has been a MIR.006. This told about possibility of docking during orbit 20407, in contradiction to my opinion. As docking indeed took place during orb. 20406, MIR.006 is no longer relevant)

C.M. van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202