

SOLOVYOV-TM8 RETURNED TO EARTH.

On 19 Febr. 1990 at 0436UTC the S-TM8 with Viktorenko and Serebrov landed safely at abt. 50 KM from the town Arkalyk in Kazakhstan. The cosmonauts are feeling well. The landing took place 1 hour before the first pass of MIR for our position. The new crew Solovyov and Balandin continues the work and experiments on board MIR.

On 17 Febr. both spaceships, S-TM8 and S-TM9 have been checked out by their crews. This could be heard during 2 passes. In orb. 22938 (0738UTC) Viktorenko and Serebrov transmitted on 121.750 mc while checking the OBC of S-TM8, the Chayka. In orb. 22940 again on 121.750 mc now Solovyov and Balandin, checking out the manual controls of the S-TM9. This last check is an indication for the next operation to be carried out by Sol and B.: the redocking of the S-TM9 from the aft to the forward axial docking port. So the S-TM9 has to be there for it serves as a lifeboat if necessary. And they in that way made the aft docking port free for the eventual docking of a freighter, the Progress-M3. About the launch of that satellite no details at this moment. The cosmonauts however already spoke about things to be send to them with that cargoschip.

C.M. vd Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202