

MIRNEWS.077

2 DECEMBER 1990

SOYUZ-TM11 LAUNCHED FOR FLIGHT TO MIR:

The soviet-japanese mission with Afanasyev's crew took off with Soyuz-TM11 from Baykonur on 2 Dec. 1990 at 0813UTC. The flight will last 2 days and during this flight 6 times in 24 hours radiotraffic is possible. (For frequencies see previous reports.)

LAUNCH OF AMERICAN SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA:

Also on 2 dec. 1990, but earlier, i.e. at 0648UTC Columbia took off from Cape Canaveral for a 10 days flight. They have to deploy Astro-1 for UV experiments. During this flight the American crew will try to make radiocontacts with the Soviet-Japanese expedition on board MIR. For our latitudes it is impossible to receive that traffic as Columbia has an inclination of 28.5 degrees.

RETURNCAPSULE AND PROGRESS-M5:

On 28 Nov. 1990 at 0615UTC the freighter Progress-M5 undocked and has been put on a destruction course. Just before Progress-M5 burnt up the returncapsule separated from it and safely returned in the planned area. The last part of descent by parachute.

ORBITCORRECTION:

Before undocking the Progress-M5 gave a rocketburst to put the MIR complex in a higher orbit. This was necessary for the Soyuz-TM11 approach and docking operations. Using my TCA-s and LOS-es after the orbit correction Wim Holwerda of the Working group artificial satellites calculated a provisional Keplerset:

Epoch 90,332.6978471 dec. 0.00035 incl 51.61 raan 221.6 ecc. 0.003
argper 300 ma 60 mm 15.594 oml. 27379

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