

MIRNEWS.083

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PROGRESS-M6 DOCKED TO MIR-COMPLEX:

The launch of freighter Progress-M6 took place at abt. 1451UTC on 14 Jan. 1991. Rumours spoke about a possible launch on 15 Jan., but related to the orbit of MIR the best window was on 14 Jan. 1991. Monitoring the frequencies of Progresses during the calculated first possible pass of P-M6 on 14 Jan. was successful: good signals on 1752UTC on 166.140, 165.873 and 922.755 mc. The first press report about the launch came many hours later. According to the normal schedule a docking could be expected on 16 Jan. 1991 at abt. 1636UTC during MIR's orbit 28144.

Radiotraffic during the pass in orb. 28144 (1624-1633UTC) indeed referred to the final approach of Pr-M6. Manarov reported that he saw 4 yellow lights on Pr-M6. On a TV screen the cosmonauts could see how a TV camera on board Pr-M6 saw the docking-port. At 163210UTC, so a few seconds before LOS the distance was 33 M and the approach speed 0.3 m/sec. The docking took place on the forward docking port of MIR and was automatically executed by the system Kurs. Already during the next pass in orb. 28145, 1820UT, it was obvious that the docking had been a success. The hatch just had been opened and the airseal was good. In contradiction to previous operations like this, I did not succeed in determining the exact dockingtime, due to dense traffic about other matters (Lithuania and Irak) on all possible channels.

EXPECTED LAUNCHDATA:

The Russian RS12/13, to be piggy backed with a navigation satellite, expected launch date: 20 Jan. 1991.

GEOS/R-M1(or: RS14) and RUDAK-2:

This soviet-german combination is ready for a launch on 27 Jan. 1991.

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