NEWSMIR.051 12 NOVEMBER 1988

MIR - AMATEUR RADIOSTATION:

Meanwhile we have a lot of information about the trainings QSO-s from MIR these weeks. (Frequ-s: downlink 145.550Mc, uplink probably 145.525mc and 145.575mc, Tx 2 watts, c/s U1MIR -Titov and U2MIR - Manarov; QSO-s only with 5 amateur stations within Sovjet territory, a.s.o.). During contacts with TsUP the cosmonautes also spoke a few times about this subject:
1. already on 8 Nov. (a day off) they began to establish QSO-s. Possibly far outside our range, East-Siberia or Kamchatka, during the night or early morning hours. So they did not wait until Nov. 14th.
2. A man named Sergey of TsUP has to deliver QSL-cards. They have to be different for each crew-member, so personal with their own c/s. "The cards", Manarov said, "must be send to MIR by Soyuz-TM7, for each crew member an example and some extra cards."

During passes of MIR in the nighthours I monitored the 145.550mc automatically but only local amateur conversations had been recorded. For a lot of amateurs over here 145.550 Mc is a "house frequency" and in future there has to be done somewhat to increase the level of self-discipline, I think.

In fact a lot of terrestial transmissions reach MIR at the same time from a large area and from different directions. During the emergency situation with Soyuz-TM5 on 6 Sept. '88 the cosmonauts aboard MIR tried to monitor the 121.750 mc traffic. They had a lot of interference from the groundservices of European airports and so they had ask TsUP to give information about that, what was going on with Soyuz-TM5. And as far as the 121.750mc during the nighthours was concerned there were only a dozen stations to cause interference. Difficult to imagine hundreds of radio amateur stations together on the uplink frequencies. Experience in the past proved also that local stations using the downlink frequency can make such traffic impossible.

SOYUZ-TM7: LAUNCH TO MIR ON 26 NOV. 1988:

Due to the visit of Pres. Mitterand to Baykunur this launch has been postponed from 21 Nov. to 26 Nov. So S-TM7 arrives at MIR on 28 Nov. '88.
The crews: Volkov, Krikalyov and Jean-Loup Chretien and stand-ins: Viktorenko, Serebrov and Tognini.

EVA: (extra vehicular activity) planned for 9 Dec. 1988 at 1018UT. Volkov and Chretien (or: Viktorenko and Tognini) will attach an experimental antennesystem to the P.Kh.O. (transition compartment). They also will install some new or extra solar-battery cells. (There now are rumors that the EVA also is postponed, to 12 Dec. '88. Not confirmed yet)

SOYUZ-TM6: RETURNFLIGHT ON 21 DECEMBER 1988.

That day Titov, Manarov and the Frenchman will return to earth. The 2 other Russians and physician Polyakov will remain aboard MIR until April or May 1989. (so this time no attempt to establish a new endurance record!)

MIR-passes next week:

Almost fully during nighthours, so probably not too much radiotraffic. The cosmonauts as much as possible stick to the day-night regime. Towards the launch of S-TM7 passes will occur in the evening hours.

T.D.R.S.-s: Geostationary tracking- and communication sat-s. 1 or more of such s/c are now in use or on test base for MIR communications. The normal radiotraffic revealed that tests do not go as smoothly as desired. So they are trying to build up experience by sending TV-reports and film to MIR via T.D.R.S.

BURAN: The Russian space shuttle: most recent official announcement: launch on 15 Nov. 1988 at 0300UT from Baykunur. No additional information about number of orbits and other for us so important flight data. For sure can be said that the flight will unmanned, computer controlled.

Greetings,
Chris van den Berg, NL-9165/A-UK3202.