

NEWSMIR.077 19 MARCH 1989

FREIGHTER PROGRESS-41 LAUNCHED AND DOCKED TO MIR:

Progress-41 has been launched from Baykonur on 16 March 1989 at 1854UT and docked with MIR on 18 March 1989 at 2051UT.

RADIOTRAFFIC:

During the pass in orb. 17708, 2035-2046UT, radiotraffic about the approaching Pr-41. Krikalyov reported fuel consumption, approach speeds, distances and attitude angles (Omega Z and X). Volkov asked TsUP whether TsUP saw the lights of the s/c or not. TsUP saw the lights via 1 or 2 TV channels (possibly also by a TV system on board Pr-41). The docking itself took place 5 mins after LOS for my position.

During next pass (orb. 17709, 2212-2219UT) the hatch to Pr-41 had not been opened yet. The crew was still checking the air on board, the airseal a.s.o. In the following pass (orb. 17710, 2346-2354UT) they confirmed that the hatch was open, the "airhose" from MIR to Pr-41 had been deployed and everything was very clean. They changed compliments and thanks for the good work and also mentioned the fact that there will be only a short period available for unloading the Progress-41. (Possibly the Pr-41 will be followed by Pr-42 very soon.) Pr-42 will be the last one of this type of freighters. The next type will have "a return-module".

PLANS: In April 1989 (probably launch 19 Apr.) Soyuz-TM8 will be launched to MIR with the relief crew. Viktorenko will be the captain, Serebrov signed off for that mission and will be replaced by Balandin (or: Bolandin). Physician Polyakov will return with Volkov and Krikalyov with the Soyuz-TM7 on 29 April 1989.

Greetings,  
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