

NEWSMIR.084 24 APRIL 1989

PROGRESS-41 UNDOCKED FROM MIR ON 21 APRIL 1989 FOR DECAY:

This freighter has been attached to MIR longer than had been planned previously. Those plans foresaw the docking of Progress-42 in the beginning of April. As plans have altered the Progress-41 could stay longer to serve as a trashcan and to push MIR in a higher orbit. This has been done on 16 or 17 April and just before the undocking on 21 April 1989. So all Keps and 2-line elements before that date are outdated again.

SOYUZ-TM7: The ferry to bring the crew back to earth. Volkov and Krikalyov have been testing that ship and even they used for their contact with TsUP the 121.750 mc. On 23 April, orb. 1864, 0732-0742UTC, the crew was on board S-TM7 and tested the engine. The engine worked for a while and pushed MIR in a higher orbit. Krikalyov later on told the ship K.V.K. that another orbit correction with the engine of S-TM6 might be possible on 24 April, but obviously this has been cancelled. In 1 orbit in the morning Volkov was in S-TM7 and called TsUP on 121.750 mc.

TDRS IN USE FOR MIR COMMUNICATIONS:

On 4 April 1989 and some times in the days to follow, the crew worked with this Tracking and Data Relay Satellite with codename "Antares". They also used this for normal communication on 23 April 1989 in orb. 18267 1220-1230UTC. The traffic reached TsUP also via 143.625 mc. So we might expect that the importance of those TDRS-s will improve in future. Thus far problem was that it is difficult to aim the antenna accurately.

RETURN DONBASY TO EARTH ON 27 APRIL 1989:

In the early morning of this day we can expect that descend. As we have no fresh Keplers or 2-line elements (after recent orbit corrections) an accurate calculation is impossible. Using the experience with previous return operations and some "dead reckoning" I found the following period: 0230-0300UTC on 27 April 1989.

If the landing is postponed traffic of Soyuz-TM7 (callsign Donbas) and Telemetry on 166.138 mc is possible in the following passes:

orb. 18323 0402-0409UTC

orb. 18324 0535-0546UTC

orb. 18325 0711-0723UTC

If they are still flying after this last orbit further monitoring, also of news broadcasts, is recommended.

SO: ALL TIMES WITH GREAT RESERVATION DUE TO LACK OF FRESH ELEMENTS!!

Greetings,
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