NEWSMIR.085 27 APRIL 1989

SOYUZ-TM7 LANDED ON 27 APRIL 1989:

The landing module with the cosmonauts Volkov, Krikalyov and Polyakov landed at 0259UTC N.E. of Dzheskazgan in Kazakhstan. Everything proceeded according to the plans and a delay (like during descends of S-TM5 and S-TM6) was not necessary. As the landing took place before the first past of the MIR and S-TM7 over our positions we could not receive radiotraffic. The final operation took place far behind our east horizon.

MIR UNMANNED FOR THE TIME BEING:

The Russians intend to keep the station in the 'automatic mode' for appr. 3 months. They want to send to huge modules (D and T) to MIR in the second half of this year. During a conversation Polyakov stated that the next crew would consist of 2 men. Certainly there has to be done a lot of studying before executing those plans. There is a lot to be replaced or mended as radiotraffic during the last weeks revealed.
Meanwhile the MIR already came within our range and indeed the Telemetry transmitters on 165.875 and 166.125mc worked a few minutes before LOS as expected.

RADIOTRAFFIC LAST WEEKS:

There was a lot of traffic and it made it possible to determine what the crew had to do before returning:
1. All things they had to get rid off had to be stowed in the Progress-41 and after the decay of that s/c in the B.O. (lifecompartment) of Soyuz-TM7.
2. They had to check (using a long checklist) the S-TM7, especially the Chayka, the OBC of the S-TM7. They also used and checked the transceiver on 121.750mc.
3. A lot of orbit corrections. Just before they undocked Progress-41 on 21 April with the engine of that s/c and later on 1 or 2 times with the engine of S-TM7 (thus also checking the good functioning of that essential engine!). Now the apogeum of MIR is more than 420 KM. So the natural decay (drag) is pre-compensated a little bit. The very high orbit can also be an indication of the possible extension of the predicted unmanned status of MIR!
4. The crew had to leave MIR in a "conservated status". Polyakov called themselves "the conserving personnel". The Kvant astrophysical module got a lot of attention as this laboratory has to continue activities under TsUP's control. Krikalyov was very busy with the calibration of Kvant's systems and telescopes. During the pass in orbit 18311, 0943-0948UTC, on 26 April 1989, Krikalyov was still doing this work. During this pass the MIR crew said good bye to the ship Kosmonavt Vladimir Komarov. During the last months the relation between the crew and the K.V.K. was excellent. It was a pleasure to listen to their frank and friendly conversations.

Greetings,
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