

MIRNEWS.015 27 NOVEMBER 1989

MODULE-D (KVANT-2) LAUNCHED ON 26 NOV. 1989 AT 1301UTC.

Launch took place from Baykonur. The name of the 20 Tonns Module is Kvant-2. At 131148UTC the 3de stage of the Proton rocket separated from the module and so Kvant-2 became an artificial satellite. During all stages of the launch the Proton worked smoothly and as the module came in the right initial orbit the planned docking with MIR could be expected on Saturday Dec. 2d 1989 between 1430 and 1500UTC.

However there was a problem: one of the 2 solar-battery panels did fail to open itself fully. Experts are studying the Telemetric data to be able to take the right decision. It might be possible that they will try to dock as soon as possible and have the paneel corrected by the cosmonauts manually during an extra EVA. (Latest reports say that experts stated that this irregularity should not hamper the docking with MIR>)

During communication session cosmonauts did not react on this news. They were very busy with the Progress-M1, for instance pumping the last amount of water to the MIR complex. They asked for news about the American shuttle discovery. TsUP had no information: military mission, or as Americans use to say: D.O.D.

The Kvant-2 is important for the cosmonauts in many respects. Also in the field of their own comfort. The possibility to have a shower on board MIR is very limited: just 2 or 3 times a month. On board Kvant-2 they can have showers as much as they want. Kvant-2 has, just as Kvant-1, Girodynes for attitude control. The cosmonauts do not like those flyingwheels for from Kvant-1 the noise is bothering them in their lifecompartment. The girodynes on board Kvant-2 will be far away and this considerably reduces the noise.

PROGRESS-M1: Still attached to MIR. It has to be away before the arrival of Kvant-2.

VISUAL OBSERVATIONS: If the clouds permit MIR and Kvant-2 will be visible this week during the early eveninghours.

SALYUT-7/COSMOS-1686: The beacon on 19.956 mc is still transmitting. This complex also can be seen during early eveninghours.

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