

cosmogram-5B November 16, 1983
Soyuz T-9=142 days (prev max + 28).
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END OF CURRENT MISSION IN SIGHT? On 10
November, Moscow World Service (in
English) reported that the cosmonauts
"have started using a special suit
which can imitate conditions on Earth.
In this way the crew that has been in
orbit for over 4 months is preparing
for its return to Earth." This con-
firms a report in AW&ST, Nov 7 issue,
which reports an interview with Alek-
sey Yeliseyev in Switzerland, to the
effect that "the crew...will be leav-
ing the station before the end of
November." Further, says AW&ST, "no
new crews are expected to be sent to
Salyut-7 until early 1984." But the
lighting conditions for recovery will
not approach optimal (in terms empiri-
cally defined by past observations)
until after Dec 14. That would be day
#170 for Soyuz T-9, an extraordinary
increase in the previous mission dura-
tion -- so the launch of an unmanned
"rescue Soyuz" cannot be excluded. But
then, with a fresh Soyuz, why bring
the men home at all? If they land
before then, as Yeliseyev allegedly
said, they will combine a doubtful
Soyuz with a demonstrably dangerous
night landing (the experience last
year was certainly traumatic!).

DETAILS ON E.V.A. IN PRAVDA (November
4 issue, page 3). A detailed article
by "Constructor V. Vladimirov" is
accompanied by a stylized drawing of
the assembly operation. It is made
clear that the two sets of panels were
both installed on the center Salyut
array, not on the left and right as
earlier assumed by some Western obser-
vers. The result increased that pan-
el's power output by 50%. The new
arrays appear (in the drawing) to
consist of seven panels, each 0.5
meters square. One man is working at
the wing itself; the other is standing
at the EVA workstation fully out of
the hatch. Thus this has been the
first (and second) times that two
Soviet cosmonauts have actually been
fully outside their spacecraft simul-
taneously on purpose (Romanenko and
Grechko were reportedly so in Dec
1977, by accident). We have obtained a
two minute excellent quality videotape
of the operation, from a news media
source, and NASA-JSC will be making
some still photographs of the opera-
tions. There is considerable detail on

structure, but analysis has hardly
begun. Of interest is one Soviet re-
port that shows two cosmonauts perfor-
ming this operation in the neutral
buoyancy water pool: it identifies
them as Leonid Kizim (age 42) and
Vladimir Solovyov (37), who evidently
were the backup crew for either T-9 or
T-10A, probably the former. I expect
we all have noted that planned EVAs
seem to occur only when Progress vehi-
cles are attached -- a Soviet comment
was that the airlock repressurization
comes from the Progress supplies. The
Dec 1977 and the Aug 1979 EVAs were
contingencies -- no Progress attached.
MORE AW&ST FROM YELISEYEV. That same
Nov. 7 article also quotes Yeliseyev
saying that the Indian cosmonaut would
fly in April (prime crew Malyshev,
Rukavishnikov, Sharma; backup crew
Berezovoy, Grechko, Malhotra). "Yelise-
yev also said several Soviet women
cosmonaut candidates remain in train-
ing, but no new near-term flights with
female crewmembers are anticipated."
An exact quotation from Yeliseyev:
"For the time being, we don't have any
new flights planned for them." And as
for a second French spationaute mis-
sion, Yeliseyev confirmed that the
Soviets are not interested and are not
discussing it with French officials.

EXPLODED COSMONAUTS SEEN IN PUBLIC.
During the Great October Socialist
Revolution celebration on November 7
(my birthday), there was a televised
two-way conversation between cosmo-
nauts Titov and Strekalov in Red
Square and Lyakhov and Aleksandrov in
orbit. The announcer made no comment
on the significance of the identity of
the two earthbound cosmonauts, and I
do not as yet have the transcript of
what was said.

ORBIT: Salyut rev 9111, Nov 16/22:01
GMT, 340.34 W. P=91.09, 23.163 deg W
per rev. Launch window: 22:39. Landing
time: 22:40. Every second day, 48
minutes earlier. Good unmanned windows
18/21:05 and 20/20:09. Another 1443???

DEAD COSMONAUTS: Stay tuned to cosmo-
gram-6 for details on cosmonaut candi-
date fatalities Tokov and Boyko.

EDITORIAL: If the Salyut-7 is left
unmanned it is a major setback for the
Soviet cosmonaut program, possibly the
biggest since the Salyut disasters of
1971-1972. If a new long-duration crew
is launched early next year, a crew
handover mission would not be expected
until summer -- a delay of almost a
year. I just sold a piece to New Sci-
entist discussing this issue.