

Cosmogram-8b 1984 March 20
 JEO, Rt 2 Box 350, Dickinson TX 77539
 SOYUZ T-11 LAUNCH DATE SET. New
 Delhi radio announced April 3 as
 the launch date of the Indian
 guest cosmonaut mission. Crew is
 Malyshev, Strelkalov, Sharma (back-
 up Berezovoy, Grechko, Malhotra).
 Salyut-7 is now near the lower 3-
 day repeating pattern suitable for
 3-man missions, and if launch
 occurs on announced date it will
 be on rev 11313 with liftoff at
 approximately 13:10 GMT. Moscow
 goes to summer time April 1,
 GMT+4, and New Delhi standard time
 is GMT+5:30.

STS 41C
 LIFTOFF NOW
 SCHEDULED
 APR 6 / 11:59 GMT
 3

This month NASA will once again
 capture the nation's attention with a fancy
 flight, the most dramatic mission in years.
 As the shuttle *Columbia* hovers 310
 miles above Earth, astronaut George
 Nelson will strap on a jet-propelled
 backpack, step outside the mother ship,
 and fly the length of a football field to
 the broken but rotating *Solar Max* satellite
 and its scythelike solar panels. Nelson
 will attach himself to the satellite, and

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Columbia will move in. A robot arm will
 grab the satellite and bring it into the
 shuttle's cargo bay for repairs. When the
 faulty components have been replaced,
Solar Max will be released again to space.

As veteran space writer *James Oberg*
 reports in "Sol Salvation," on page 46,
 NASA is setting many records with this
 flight, the first attempt ever to rescue
 a satellite. The idea of snatching large,
 moving objects from their orbital paths
 was once the domain only of science
 fiction, but if the salvage job is success-
 ful, this mission will bring us closer to
 exploiting space as profitable territory.



OBERG

TYURATAM HISTORY SENSATION. In an
 article in the March issue of *Air
 Force*, former CIA photo-analyst
 Dino Brugioni revealed that the 15
 mile rail spur from Tyuratam
 northwards was built before 1939,
 probably to support open-pit min-
 ing operations (probably by GULag
 political prisoners:JEO). The big
 flame pit used by the first "A"
 pad (45.9235N, 63.3392E) was an old
 quarry; other flame pits for "A"
 pads (45.9983N, 63.5606E, and
 46.0064N, 63.5806E) are probably
 similar.

AVIATION WEEK (MARCH 19) ITEMS:
 "Soviet Union is developing a
 large laser-equipped prototype
 military spacecraft for launch on
 its heavy Saturn-V-class booster,

which is also completing develop-
 ment. The spacecraft is being
 designed to attack U.S. satellites
 and is expected to be launched on
 the booster within the next two
 years. The primary mission for the
 new booster is to place 300,000-
 400,000-lb. Soviet space station
 elements in orbit, but the U.S.
 Defense Dept. has been concerned
 for some time that it also could
 be used for the type of heavy
 unmanned prototype directed-ener-
 gy weapon now known to be under
 development." [JEO:Based on other
 sources I find this to be a credi-
 ble report -- wish it were not.]

"The Soviets have resumed testing
 at Saryshagan of their SH-08 bal-
 listic missile interceptor used
 with the ABM-X-3 system...." Its
 role as a low altitude ASAT is
 still unclear.

GOLYAKHOVSKIY FOUND, INTERVIEWED.
 Acting on leads obtained by Mike
 Cassutt, I located and talked by
 telephone with Dr. Vladimir Golya-
 khovsky, author of *Russian Doctor*.
 This new book describes a cosmo-
 naut fatality in October 1960, in
 a fire in a pressure chamber. Dr.
 G recalls the man was a 25-year-
 old Air Force Lieutenant named
 "Sergeyev", and was definitely a
 cosmonaut-trainee and not a
 "tester" (Gagarin accompanied him
 to the hospital and stayed with
 him until he died). Dr. G's book
 sadly shows signs of inaccuracies,
 such as his report that the pilot
 who died with Gagarin ^{in 1968} was also
 named Sergeyev (it was, of course,
 Seryogin). With caution, however,
 I think we can obtain some ex-
 citing new historical material
 over the coming weeks as I inter-
 view him.

NEW OBERG BOOK SCHEDULED. My next
 book will be called *The New Race
 For Space*, and will be published
 by Stackpole (Harrisburg, Pennsyl-
 vania) in mid-September as a trade
 paperback at \$12.95. It includes
 mainly updated reprint (or unpub-
 lished article manuscript) mat-
 erial, about half of it Soviet
 material on subjects since *Red
 Star in Orbit* came out three years
 ago. Topics of interest include
 Salyut-7, the Soyuz T-8 rendezvous

failure, the Soyuz T-10A explosion, the 150-day mission of 1983 which included first manning of Kosmos-1443, the Soviet mini-shuttle tests, and proposals for a Shuttle/Spacelab/Salyut rendezvous as early as 1985.

STRANGE REPORT ON SOLOVYOV.

Soyuz T-10's FE, Vladimir Solovyov (accent last syllable), was a specialist in Salyut OMS (orbital maneuvering system) and refuelling operations, and was a flight controller at Moscow Mission Control when the Progress-1 was flying in 1978. Later that year he was admitted to the cosmonaut corps. We know his role as backup to Soyuz T-6 (French mission), but Vodnyy Transport (Feb 9, 1984, p.1) also wrote: "Following the Soviet-French mission, he was in a backup crew together with V. Titov, the commander, and G. Strekalov." What can we make of THIS claim? An author's mistake? A cancelled late-1982 relief mission? [Note: rumor has it that Berezhovoy and Lebedev were supposed to have had "Kosmos-1443" launched to them in late 1982, and detailed procedural updates were read up to them aboard Salyut-7, but the launch slipped a bit and the manned mission was extended in order to still try to fly "1443"---but then it was put off several more months, so the men were called home]. [We know from Lebedev's diary that the mission was extended an additional 35 days over the pre-launch planned duration].

AND ABOUT LEBEDEV....

That same "Lebedev Diary" had an interesting item about his long dry spell between missions. He wrote about the nine years and "five crews" which he had endured before flying again in April 1982. Well, which five crews? One is obviously the Popov-Lebedev crew of February 1980, when he busted his knee and Ryumin stepped in; another is probably Soyuz-18 backups with Kovalyonok in May 1975; still another could be Soyuz T-4, behind Savinykh, in 1981, since policy is to rotate a "loser" back into the backup slot one more time. But when and where else?

AVIATION WEEK FORECAST ISSUE...

March 12 was the "survey" issue of AW&ST, and they ran a long article on Soviet space activities, much of it derived from Nicholas Johnson's third annual Soviet Year in Space report (kudos for Nick!). Says AW&ST, "Several large new Soviet systems should be operational within five years... in a space program buildup as large, if not larger, than the U.S. Apollo effort, with the key elements involving: *A Saturn-5-class launcher designed to place 300,000-400,000-lb. payloads into orbit; *A heavy manned space shuttle development with a vehicle comparable in size to the U.S. shuttle orbiter; *A heavy space station development designed to place as many as a dozen cosmonauts in orbit on the same facility by the end of the decade; *A winged spaceplane development that is expected to be used for light cargo transport and crew replacement activities in connection with the large Soviet station; *A new medium booster development capable of placing about 30,000 lb. in orbit and expected to be teamed with the spaceplane; *Continuous development in the existing Salyut program, including more extensive use of the heavy Salyut station tug equipped with a Gemini-class reentry vehicle for return of materials processed on the station. The Soviets have as many as nine aerospace and heavy machinery design bureaus working on this space buildup." Further, "Ground test activity with the Soviet heavy shuttle and heavy unmanned booster stages is under way, and the new medium booster has been moved to its Tyuratam launch pad for initial fit and function checks prior to first flight."

NEXT ISSUE:

Funny Progress-19 profile?
Still no 1443 schematics, photos?
Where are mil-Salyut cosmonauts?

