

cosmogram-7 March 7, 1984

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INDIAN MISSION CREW REPLACEMENT.

The following dispatch went out over Moscow International Service in French at 1700 GMT 27 Feb: "Cosmonaut Gennadiy Strekalov will be among the Soviet-Indian crew which will depart on a space mission this year. He replaces another Soviet, Nikolay Rukavishnikov, whose health is under medical observation...." It is interesting to note that the backup FE, Grechko, was not moved up. When the Indian visit crew (Malyshhev, Strekalov, Sharma) arrives, the six men will be a record population for any Salyut. And the Space Shuttle mission "STS-41C" (old "STS-13") is set for April 6-12, so there might be some overlap there, too, for a record eleven men in space, breaking the old record of eight set last month.

THE "VANCE BRAND" EFFECT is sure death on Soviet premiers. The astronaut was in orbit when Brezhnev died and again when Andropov died. And he flew on Apollo-Soyuz, too!

NEW CREW ON SALYUT-7. It should be noted that the Kizim-Solovyov-Atkov crew is the first long-duration three-man crew since 1971, and that Atkov, a cardiologist, is the first scientist EVER to serve aboard a Soviet space station. A long mission certainly seems reasonable to expect.

WHEN NEW MODULE? When can we expect the next "Kosmos-1443"? Presumably after the Indian visit next month, when the new Soyuz T-11 is docked to the aft port, freeing the forward port for the module. Linking a module up while the station is manned will be a new risk, but should not be a problem.

ALEKSANDROV DIARY from last year's mission will be appearing in "Izvestiya". Initial installment, covering first thirty days of 150-

day flight, was published in February 4 edition.

MORE COSMONAUT FATALITY REPORTS. A new book, Russian Doctor, Vladimir Golyakhovsky, St. Martin's/Marek, 1984, reports on the doctor's experiences in Russia. Among other things he claims to have "treated Gagarin's predecessor, an unnamed cosmonaut who burned to death in his space capsule prior to the first attempted Russian space flight". I have not seen the book (the quotation is from a book review in a California newspaper) but we should keep an eye out for it, and try to contact Golyakhovsky himself, now resident somewhere in America.

ATTENTION INDIAN JOURNALISTS!! Are we missing the boat by not making contact with the many English-speaking newsmen from India who will be travelling to the USSR to cover next month's flight? We could pass on to them many good questions which might prompt some Soviet answers, especially now that Strekalov (of the September 26 "event") is now on the crew. But how can we make contact?

1: Will the T-11 mission swap with T-10, or is it merely a visit and return in the same ship?

2: Details on the Soyuz T-10A fire and explosion, now that official reports must be complete.

3: Who was the backup crew of Soyuz T-10 (presumably Titov, Strekalov, and another doctor), and what role is Dzhaniybekov playing now?

4: How long will the current main expedition be aloft?

5: What further visiting missions are planned this year? E.G., will there be a Romanenko-Savinykh-"Irina" mission?

6: Are there any other nationalities, foreign or Soviet, in preparation for "guest missions" in the next several years? Which ones?

Jim Oberg