

Coverup of Soyuz TMA-10 Modular Separation Problem (October 21, 2007)

Soyuz TMA-10 landed on October 21, 2007, and was widely covered in the world news media (see links below). But only six months later, after the Soyuz TMA-11 landing troubles on April 19, 2008, was it revealed that TMA-10 (like TMA-11) had experienced a module separation problem on the way back to Earth. NASA had been informed of it at the time, and had briefed its own astronauts aboard the ISS (especially Dr. Peggy Whitson, the station commander), but had withheld the news of the problem from the US public, per Russian request. The Russians themselves never said anything about it, and as far as I can tell (May 6, 2008), they haven't said anything to this date.

Links:

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soyuz_TMA-10

Spacefacts (Germany): <http://www.spacefacts.de/mission/english/soyuz-tma-10.htm>

Russian private website:

<http://space.kursknet.ru/cosmos/english/machines/stma10.sht>

Aviation Week:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/Russ102307.xml