

TASKING SHEET

SOURCE NO: 079

DATE: 14 APR 93

SUSPENSE: 15 APR 93

1200 hrs

1. PROJECT NUMBER: 93-194-P

2. METHOD/TECHNIQUE: Method of choice.

3. BACKGROUND:
None

4. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION:

----Describe the target.

----Provide sketches in support of your findings.

5. COMMENTS:

----Optional Coordinates: 846127/477491.

MIR

CORE OF A SPACE COLONY

Mankind's permanence in space may begin with the Soviet station Mir, Russian for "peace." Launched February 1986, Salyut-size Mir boasts improved control and operations systems, expanded crew space and—most significantly—a forward docking adapter equipped with five ports.

Here, four craft—all already in use—deploy at the station. A Soyuz TM space taxi has docked vertically. A second TM departs the forward port as a crew member inspects the docking seals. Flying in formation, lower, is a large module, nearly the size of Mir itself. Equipped for manned and unmanned operation, it could house experiments for astronomy, materials processing, or horticulture; periodically it will dock with Mir. At the station's stern rides a Progress freighter.

Inside Mir a cosmonaut monitors the control station while another floats toward his compartment with sleeping cocoon and porthole—gracious living by space standards. A treadmill for jogging stands at the cosmonaut's left.

First to occupy the station (left), Vladimir Solovyev and Leonid Kizim, at right, return last July after a 125-day mission to Mir and Salyut 7.

PAINTING BY
PIERRE MIGN

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