

Mir's crew reactivates key module

MOSCOW (AP) — The crew on the Mir space station worked to expand their living space to taking advantage of an increased power supply to reactivate a key module so a U.S. space shuttle can dock there next month.

Russians Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov and NASA astronaut Michael Foale have already switched on the ventilation system in the Kristall module and were busy reviving other equipment, said Valery Lyndin, spokesperson for Mission Control.

It will take several days to have all the modules systems working, he said.

The 17-ton Kristall, along with other parts of the station, was cut off from its main power system after a space collision June 25 left Mir at half power.

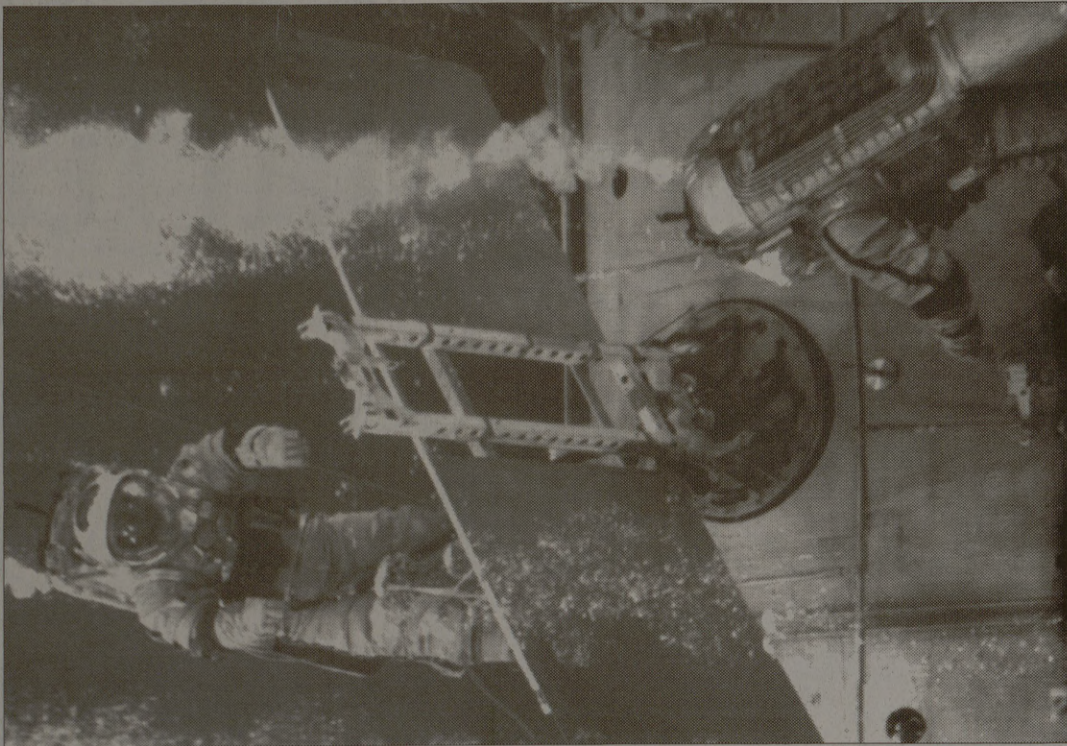
Before reactivating the module, the crew spent three days running fans and heaters to dry equipment, which was damp from condensation during its two months without power. The Kristall is one of six separate modules on the Mir. Russian space officials said it was important to have Kristall back in working order to continue scientific research, which was interrupted by a long string of breakdowns aboard the 11-year-old Mir.

The Kristall, attached to the Mir in 1990, is equipped with a broad array of scientific gear, mostly intended for producing super-clean materials in zero-gravity conditions.

"It's also important to have Kristall working again since it's the sole module equipped with a docking port for visiting U.S. space shuttles," Lyndin said.

The shuttle Atlantis is expected to dock with Mir around the end of September, bringing U.S. astronaut David Wolf to replace Foale and delivering some repair gear.

On Friday, Solovyov and Vinogradov traveled to the Spektr module, which was depressed in the collision, and managed to reconnect



Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, left, are shown training to repair a module on a model of the Mir earlier this summer. They practiced underwater for Mir repairs in the 40-foot-deep tank of water to simulate weightlessness.

three of its solar panels to Mir's power system. That should bring Mir up to about 90 percent of its original power.

Since Monday, Spektr's solar batteries have been providing power equivalent to a third of their capacity. The crew now needs to link them to the station's orientation system, which auto-

matically keeps all solar panels at the best possible angle to the sun.

Before doing that, a long series of tests is needed, and space officials have opted not to rush the process so Solovyov and Foale have enough time to prepare for a space walk outside the station.

Swedish official calls sterilizations barbaric

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The forced sterilization of 60,000 Swedes deemed genetically inferior was "barbaric — we should do things by their right name," Swedish Minister Margot Wallstrom said Thursday.

But Wallstrom gave only vague details about the government's efforts to calm the controversy and end the cruelty.

The government will appoint a commission to investigate the sterilizations conducted from 1935 to 1975, but who will be on it or when it begins work has not been decided, she said at a news conference.

The commission will consider the question of compensation for the victims, but Wallstrom declined to say what she thought would be an appropriate amount.

Asked whether the government was prepared to apologize, she

said, "That is also a part of that whole complex of issues. ... I don't know how this is, how it has been done, how you do that in a good way."

"It was the spirit prevalent in Europe at the time, with a rigid exercise of authority and a political belief in progress that would abolish poverty and destitution."

MARGOT WALLSTROM
SOCIAL MINISTER

Sweden has been shaken by international attention in the past week following a series of newspaper articles about the steriliza-

tions, which were carried out on people judged to have undesirable racial characteristics, or to be congenitally handicapped or otherwise "inferior."

Although Sweden's number of victims was strikingly high — the country had about 7 million people in the 1940s when the practice was at its height — Sweden was just one of many European countries allowing involuntary sterilization.

It was a point Wallstrom returned to repeatedly under a barrage of questions.

"It was the spirit prevalent in Europe at the time, with a rigid exercise of authority and a political belief in progress that would abolish poverty and destitution," she said.

Wallstrom said it was essential for the commission to "carry out a broad historical analysis" that could be used as cautionary guidelines for

new medical policies in the age of genetic engineering.

She said the commission would be directed to put victim compensation at the top of its priorities. But the commission's work could last 18 months, she said, and after that the government would have to debate changing laws to make compensation possible.

The government now considers sterilization compensation on a case-by-case basis under the legal principle known as "ex gratia (from mercy)." In the 1980s and '90s, there have been 36 applications for compensation, 16 of which have been granted.

Each of those payments was equal to about \$6,400, Wallstrom said. She did not say if she believed that was sufficient or if the commission would consider a higher amount.

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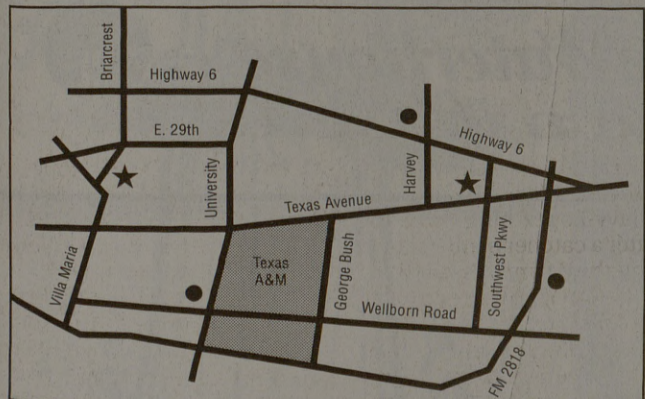
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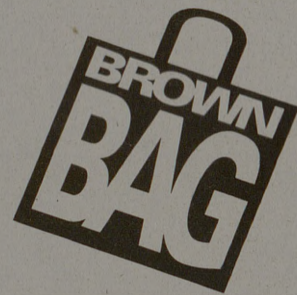
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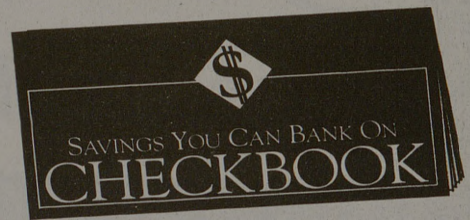
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