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AUTHOR: TASS

TITLE: The Native Land Honors The Heros Of Space

SUBJECT: Reception In The Great Kremlin Palace

On 3 July 1970, at 1800 h. the Soyuz-9 cosmonauts, who had completed their two week period of quarantine, were honored by the heads of the Soviet Government and the Communist party of the USSR.

L. I. Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union, greeted Nikolayev and Sevast'yanov and congratulated them on their record breaking 286 orbit flight around the Earth. He stated that this was a flight which tested the endurance not only of all the space craft systems but also of the cosmonauts themselves. During their 18 days in space the cosmonauts carried out an extensive and complex program of scientific and technical experiments charted by Soviet scientists. This new step in the mastery of space has made a great contribution to the development of a whole series of branches of science and has perfected the techniques of space flight.

Brezhnev went on to say that the main result of the Soyuz-9 flight is the practical demonstration of the possibility of man to successfully live and work in space, in weightless conditions, not only for days but for weeks.

Following Brezhnev, N. V. Podgornyy, the chairman of the of the Supreme Council of the USSR, presented a second "Gold Star" to Nikoayev (a gold star carries with it the title "Hero of the Soviet Union"), and announced Nikolayev's promotion to Major General of Aviation (this is equivalent to Brigadier General USAF).

To Sevast'yanov, Padgornyy presented "The Order Of Lenin", the "Gold Star", and the insignia of "Pilot-Cosmonaut Of The USSR".

Nikolayev reported that the multi-day flight of the Soyuz-9 has been successfully completed. The crew accomplished all of the assigned scientific, technical, and biomedical investigations and experiments. They tested new equipment and systems during an extended flight. All of the equipment and all of the on board systems worked reliably, and the Soyuz spacecraft once more showed its high qualities.

Sevast'yanov reported that their flight was properly called a working flight. Its program was extensive, very interesting, and quite saturated. In the course of the program a large number of experiments important for national economy, in the technical and scientific sense, ^{was} ~~were~~ carried out. One of the problems with which the crew was charged was the testing of its on-board systems in extended space flight.

Two Soviet cosmonauts demonstrated that men can live and work in space in weightless conditions for a long time.