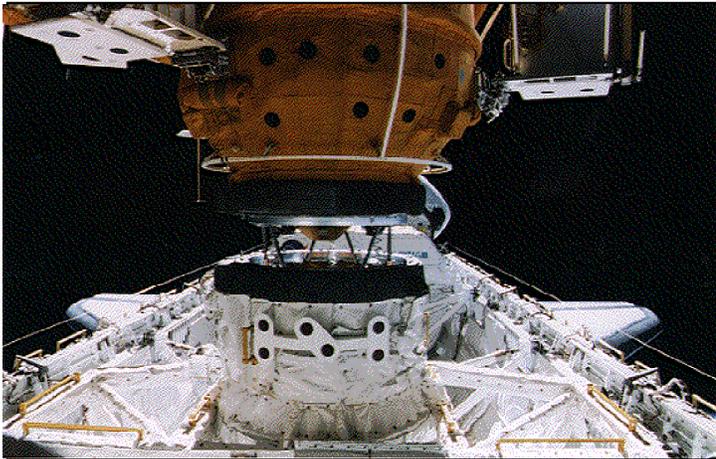




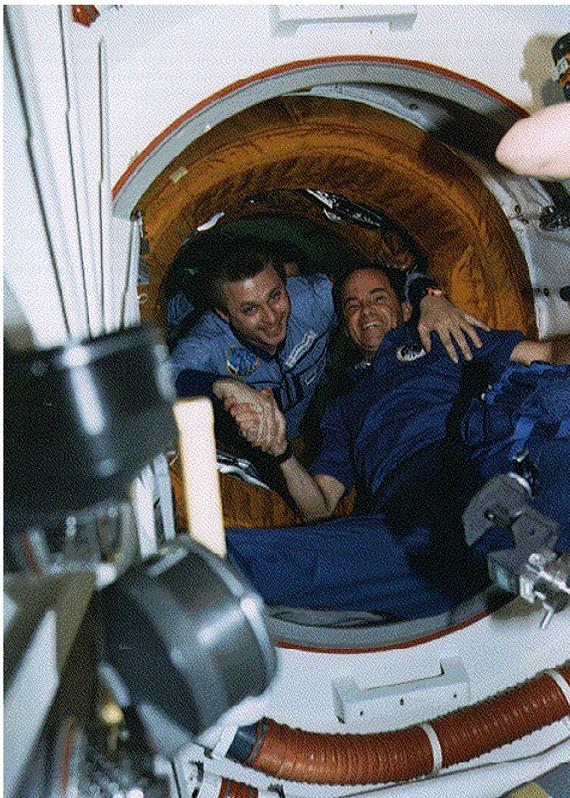
STS-76 delivers dream c



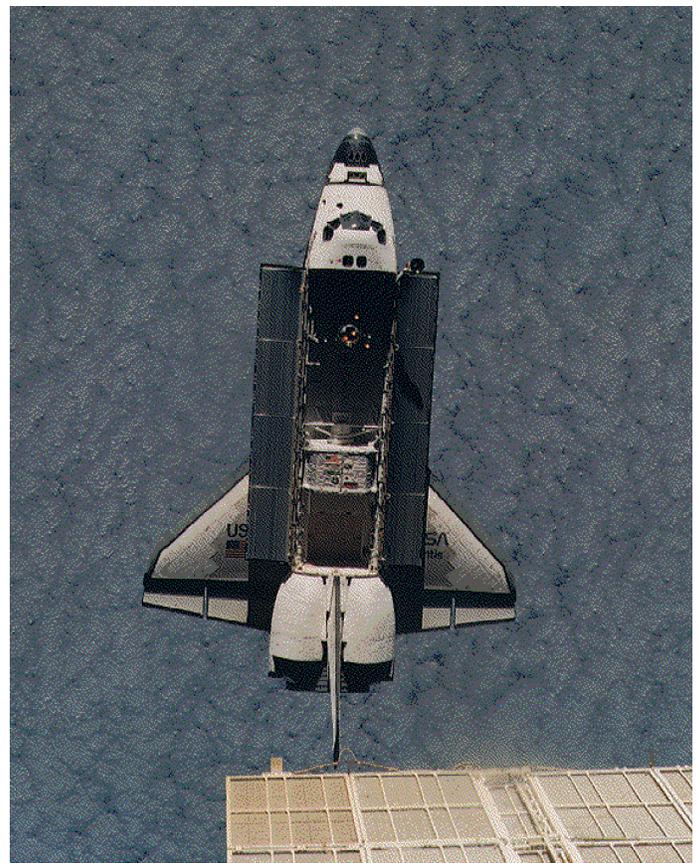
THE ORBITER DOCKING SYSTEM (ODS) and the Docking Module (DM) on Russia's Mir space station appear near the center of this frame, as the Space Shuttle Atlantis and Mir link in Earth orbit on March 23, at about 240 statute miles altitude.



JOINING HER new cosmonaut crewmates, Shannon Lucid helps with an inventory of new food supplies in the base block module of the Mir. Yuri Onufrienko, Mir 21 mission commander, is in the foreground, and Yuri Usachev, flight engineer, is in back.

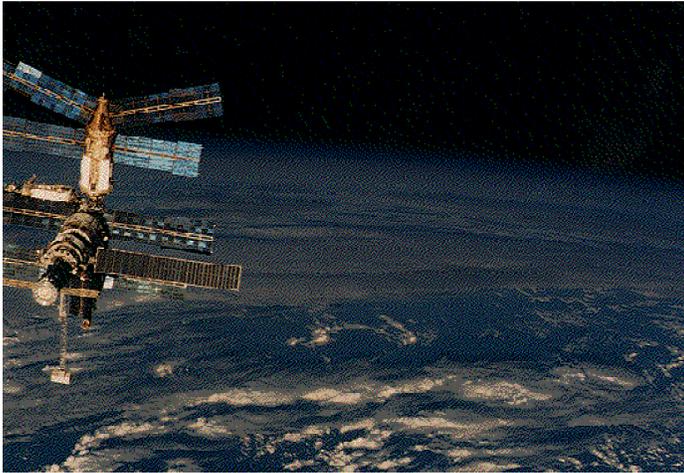


CONTINUING an on-orbit tradition, astronaut Kevin Chilton, right, STS-76 mission commander, shakes hands with cosmonaut Yuri Onufrienko, Mir 21 commander, in the tunnel connecting Atlantis with Mir.

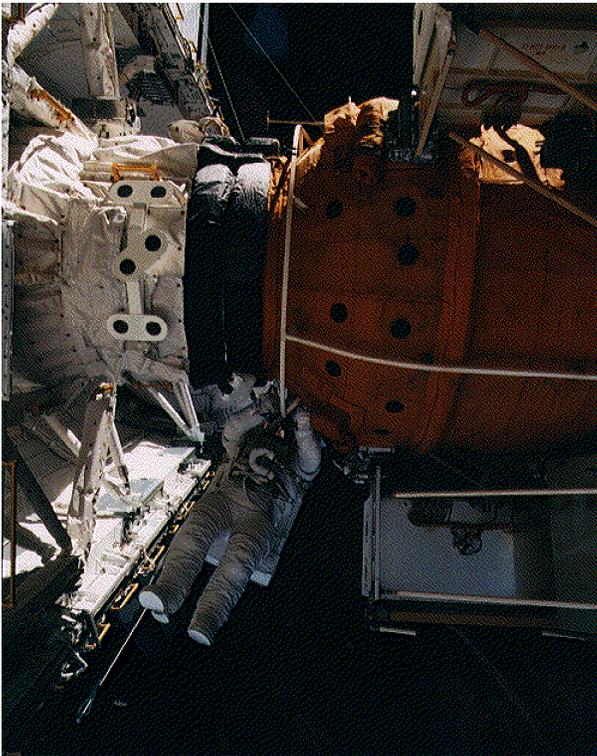


BACKDROPPED against a "floor" of clouds, this view of Atlantis was taken by the Mir 21 cosmonaut crew members onboard the Mir space station, during rendezvous and docking operations March 23. Part of a solar panel connected to the Mir is in the foreground. The Orbiter Docking System, the connective tunnel and the Space module can be seen in Atlantis' cargo bay. With the subsequent delivery of astronaut Shannon Lucid to the Mir, the Mir 21 crew grew to three, as the mission quickly became a cosmonaut guest researcher. She will spend approximately days on Mir before returning to Earth.

ing with Mir



AINST a massive array of clouds over the south Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Mir space station is pictured from Atlantis' aft flight deck. The spacecraft were in ess of making their third docking in Earth orbit.



ASTRONAUT Michael R. (Rich) Clifford, mission specialist, works at a restraint bar on the Docking Module of the Mir space station during a March 27 spacewalk. The extravehicular activity (EVA) of astronauts Clifford and Linda M. Godwin marks the first spacewalk while the Mir and Shuttle spacecraft were docked.

Comet Hyakutake offers eyeful to KSC astronomy, photo buffs

As Comet Hyakutake made a clear impression in area skies during the last weeks of March, several of Kennedy Space Center's astronomy and photography enthusiasts made the most of the rare opportunity by spending long late hours attempting to capture the perfect image of the spectacle. Pictured below are some that succeeded.



BIONETICS CORPORATION photographer George Shelton shot this image at 12:49 a.m. March 24 from his home on Merritt Island. He used a 135-mm telephoto lens set at f2.8 and 400 ISO film. The exposure was three minutes and 15 seconds.



DR. G.W. HOFFLER, deputy director of the Biomedical Operations and Research Office, submitted this photo taken by his son-in-law, Clint Rocknell, in Bonifay, FL. The picture was taken March 22 with a 28 mm lens and a three minute exposure.



JOHN W. SIGH JR. of USBI shot this view at 1:30 a.m. March 25 during the comet's closest approach to Earth. He used a 50 mm lens set at f1.7 for five minutes.