

Friday, April 7, 2000

Korean auto workers strike

New Japan PM gets taste of diplomatic agenda

cannot be transmitted to humans. seven further suspected outbreaks beer and pork. (Reuters)

Russian aircraft docks with Mir station

KOROLYOV, Russia - A Russian Soyuz spacecraft docked with the ageing orbital space station Mir on Thursday, 50 hours after blasting off on a mission to breathe new life into the world's only space laboratory.

It was the first manned flight in almost a year since Russia put the 14-year-old Mir on autopilot prior to its planned scrapping. But Mir won a reprieve after a group of foreign investors came forward with \$20 million for the station.

By revisiting Mir, Russia hopes to assess whether it can really become the "space hotel" that U.S. millionaire Walt Anderson and his fellow investors in MirCorp envisage.

A big screen at Mission Control in the town of Korolyov, just outside Moscow, displayed live coverage of the docking, showing how the spacecraft carrying two Russian cosmonauts approached Mir and finally hooked up with it at 0630 GMT.

The mission control spokesman said cosmonauts Sergei Zalyotin and Alexander Kaleri performed the last stage of the docking manually.

Zalyotin and Kaleri were expected to enter Mir at around 0800 GMT to check the atmosphere in the laboratory, which has been losing air through microscopic cracks in its body.

Space experts have said they hoped the leaks were not big enough to force the cosmonauts to wear oxygen masks for several hours while fresh air delivered several weeks ago together with other supplies by cargo ship was being pumped into the craft.

The cosmonauts are expected to spend 45 days on Mir carrying out scientific experiments and examining the station's life expectancy.

But their stay, which will play a key role in deciding how long the station can operate, could be extended until August if more funds are found.

The Russian government has expressed hope that Mir may survive at least until the International Space Station (ISS), in which Russia also has a role, starts operating. (Reuters)

Lockheed charged with giving rocket data to China

WASHINGTON - The U.S. State Department has charged Lockheed Martin Corp. with violating U.S. export laws by giving a state-owned Chinese company data about satellite rocket technology that could be useful to China's missile program, the Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The department informed Lockheed Martin that it violated the Arms Export Control Act in a letter dated Tuesday and gave the largest U.S. defense contractor 30 days to respond to the civil charges. They could result in a fine of up to \$15 million and bar the Bethesda, Maryland-based company from exporting satellites or satellite technology for up to three years, the Post said.

The allegations are similar to those lodged in 1998 against two other U.S. satellite makers, Hughes Electronics Corp. and Loral Space & Communications, which have been under criminal investigation for possibly passing sensitive data to China.

State Department officials had no immediate comment.

But the Post quoted State Department spokesman James Rubin as saying it was "a serious matter," and export control officials decided to take action "based on the facts and the gravity of the charges." He said the case did not involve violations of criminal law.

"In our view, any assistance to China that enhances its capabilities in space launch has the potential to be applied to missile development," Rubin was quoted as saying.

Lockheed Martin spokesman James Fetig denied the company violated export laws and said it obtained a Commerce Department license before its scientists assessed the Chinese-made satellite motor and gave data to a Chinese company.

"National security was not harmed, and it is our understanding that there is no criminal violation involved and no criminal charges pending," Fetig told the paper. (Reuters)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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MALAYAAT MALUSOG
NAPAMAYANAN

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8203 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL LAW ON COUNTERFEIT DRUGS"

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Food and Drugs promulgated on November 19, 1996 the rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 8203 otherwise known as the "Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs";

WHEREAS, a perusal of paragraph (h) Section 3 Rule 1 of said rules shows that the definition of counterfeit drugs/medicines provided therein contradicts the provisions of R.A. 8203;

WHEREFORE, after a series of consultations conducted by the Department of Health with various sectors and in order to conform with the provisions of R.A. 8203, paragraph (h) Section 3 Rule 1 is hereby amended and shall now read, as follows:

(h). "Unregistered imported drug product" as distinguished from counterfeit drug defined under Section 3 of R.A. 8203, shall refer to unregistered imported drug product without a registered counterpart brand in the Philippines.

This Amendment shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

31 January 2000.

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APPROVED:

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