



Dr Svetlana Patsaeva
Moscow
Russia

3rd August 2021

By email only: spatsaeva@mail.ru

Dear Dr Patsaeva,

Our Society was very pleased to receive the letter from you and your colleagues Anatoly Kapitanov, Anatoly Kurochkin and Vladimir Proschenko of the Veterans of the Soviet Space Research Fleet organisation, on the occasion of our 41st Sino-Russian Technical Forum.

For over 40 years the British Interplanetary Society has been studying the activities of the Soviet and Russian space programmes, and in this year's Forum on 5 June we commemorated the achievements of the crew of Soyuz 11 aboard Salyut, the world's first space station, and remembered the pioneering cosmonauts and their tragic loss.

Our programme included an overview of the development of the concept of orbital stations up to their first practical realisation in Salyut, then on to later stations including Mir, the ISS (MKS) and the space stations of other nations. We also displayed some photos of the crew, in particular Viktor Patsaev, and the space communications ship named after him, which you wrote to us about. The British Interplanetary Society (BIS) was founded in 1933 and is the oldest continually existing space advocacy organisation in the world. Although we were preceded by the Soviet Society for Studies of Interplanetary Travel (1924), and by two American and German societies, unlike those we never became absorbed into a national industry. Thus the BIS remains the world's oldest independent space organisation. Our aim is to support and promote astronautics and space exploration.

The British Interplanetary Society recognises the ship Kosmonavt Viktor Patsaev as an important part of the history of human exploration of the cosmos. We endorse your efforts, and send our best wishes for the success of the project to preserve this outstanding vessel, the last example of its type. I have asked our members Dr Ken MacTaggart and Brian Harvey to send you some suggestions and ideas for developing your commendable project to maintain and exhibit the ship.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Webb
President

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