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**BRITISH
ANDEAN
CLIMBING
EXPEDITION
1986**

PRELIMINARY REPORT

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Supported by the 'British Mountaineering Council' & 'Mount Everest Foundation'

BRITISH ANDEAN CLIMBING EXPEDITION 1986

— PRELIMINARY REPORT

The aim of the 'British Andean Climbing Expedition 1986' was to attempt previously unclimbed routes on mountains in the Southern part of the Cordillera Huayhuash in Peru during July and August 1986.

THE TEAM:

- JOHN NIXON BSc - LEADER. 29 years old, Geography Teacher at Hermitage Comprehensive School, Chester-le-Street, County Durham. 13 years of climbing experience in Great Britain, 4 Alpine seasons, Leader of the 'Newcastle University Himalaya Expedition 1978', and Leader of the 'British West Karakorum Expedition 1981'.
- TIM RELTON BSc - 29 years old, Management Training Consultant based in Sheffield. 14 years of climbing experience in Great Britain, 2 Alpine seasons, member of the 'Newcastle University Himalaya Expedition 1978', member of the 'British West Karakorum Expedition 1981'.
- JEFF THOMPSON MSc - 29 years old, Systems Executive with ICL, Bristol. 9 years climbing experience in Great Britain, member of the 'Newcastle University Himalaya Expedition 1978' and member of the 'British West Karakorum Expedition 1981'.
- BOB KNAPP BSc - 30 years old, Systems Consultant with IES (ICI), Billingham. 12 years of climbing experience in Great Britain, 5 Alpine seasons, member of the 'British West Karakorum Expedition 1981'.
- IAN SAVILLE - 31 years old, Craft and Design Teacher in Grand Cayman. 10 years climbing experience in Great Britain, 2 Alpine seasons.

ESTABLISHING BASE CAMP:

The team gathered in Lima on 20th July and, after a few days of preparation and the purchasing of food supplies, set off to spend one month climbing in the mountains. A bus was taken for the journey northwards along the desert coastline to Barranca. From here a minibus was hired for the rough drive eastwards inland to the small town of Cajatambo, located a few miles to the south of the Cordillera Huayhuash.

Before arriving in Peru and during a visit to the British Embassy in Lima, we had been informed of violent terrorist activity in the area surrounding Cajatambo in recent months. The Maoist guerrilla movement - the 'Sendero Luminoso' - had been particularly active and there were a number of 'incidents'. The armed police presence in Cajatambo was very apparent but they were helpful and sympathetic to our aims, (a good relationship being established by taking up their challenge of a football match and consuming many beers with them !). The police were strongly hinting however that our original plan of establishing a base camp at Laguna Jurau would be dangerous as our approach walk would be susceptible to ambush as there was a known terrorist presence in two nearby villages, Huayllapa and Paillon. We continued to suggest that we were going to Jurau knowing that word would quickly get around, but in the event secretly set off eastwards, in the opposite direction, and after two days set up a well-hidden base camp a few kilometres north of Laguna Viconga.

Our base camp allowed us to make a number of new routes in the Puscanturpa range from the East. Although we were fortunate in not being disturbed at base, two of the team had some exciting moments escaping from four bandits in a large boulder field at dusk. They were hiding all night as the bandits searched for them with torches before finally giving up their quest in the cold, early hours of the next morning!

Base Camp was at a relatively high altitude, about 4500 metres, and the climbs were attempted in 'Alpine Style' with either one or two bivouacs usually at the foot of the more technical climbing sections. We had arrived at base on 28th July and left on 19th August. Weather throughout this period was reasonable although it did deteriorate towards the end of our stay with a predictable pattern of quite heavy snowstorms in the afternoon and early evening. Temperatures at base were always cold, usually below zero.

CLIMBING ACHIEVEMENTS :

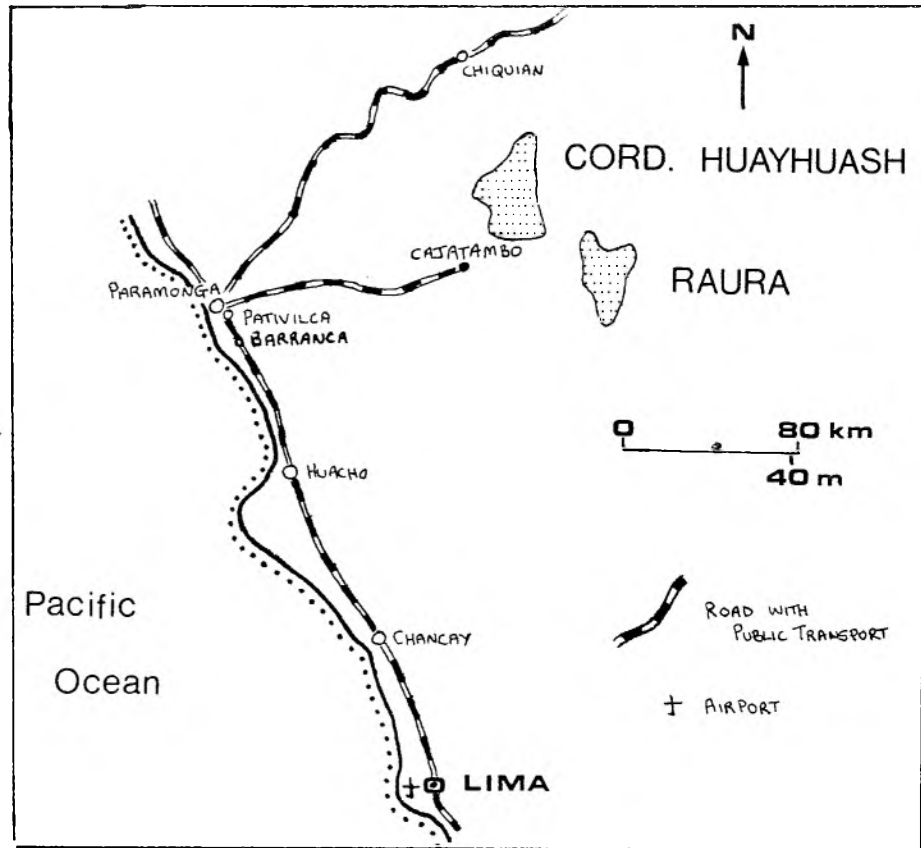
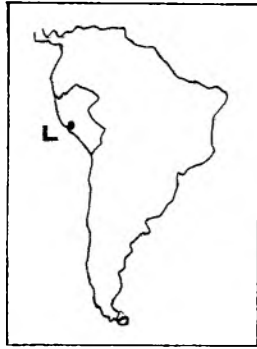
The following climbs were made in 'Alpine Style' by combinations of the five team members :

- 1) 1st Ascent of P. 5314m - from the East via a mixed route up buttresses then the East Face. 8th August '86.
Climbers : J.Nixon, I.Saville.
- 2) 3rd Ascent of Puscanturpa Central 5442m - via a new route - from the East, to gain the South Ridge close to the summit. 30th July '86
Climbers : J.Nixon, I.Saville, T.Relton.
- 3) 2nd Ascent of Suiroraju 5439m - via a new route - East Face. 8th August '86
Climbers : T.Relton, J.Thompson.
- 4) 2nd Ascent of Puscanturpa Este 5410m - via a glacier to the East and then the North Ridge. 12th August '86.
Climbers : T.Relton, R.Knapp, J.Thompson.
- 5) An ascent of P. 5088m - an easy training peak close to base camp.
Climbers : J.Nixon, I.Saville, T.Relton - 1st August '86
J.Thompson, R.Knapp - 5th August '86.

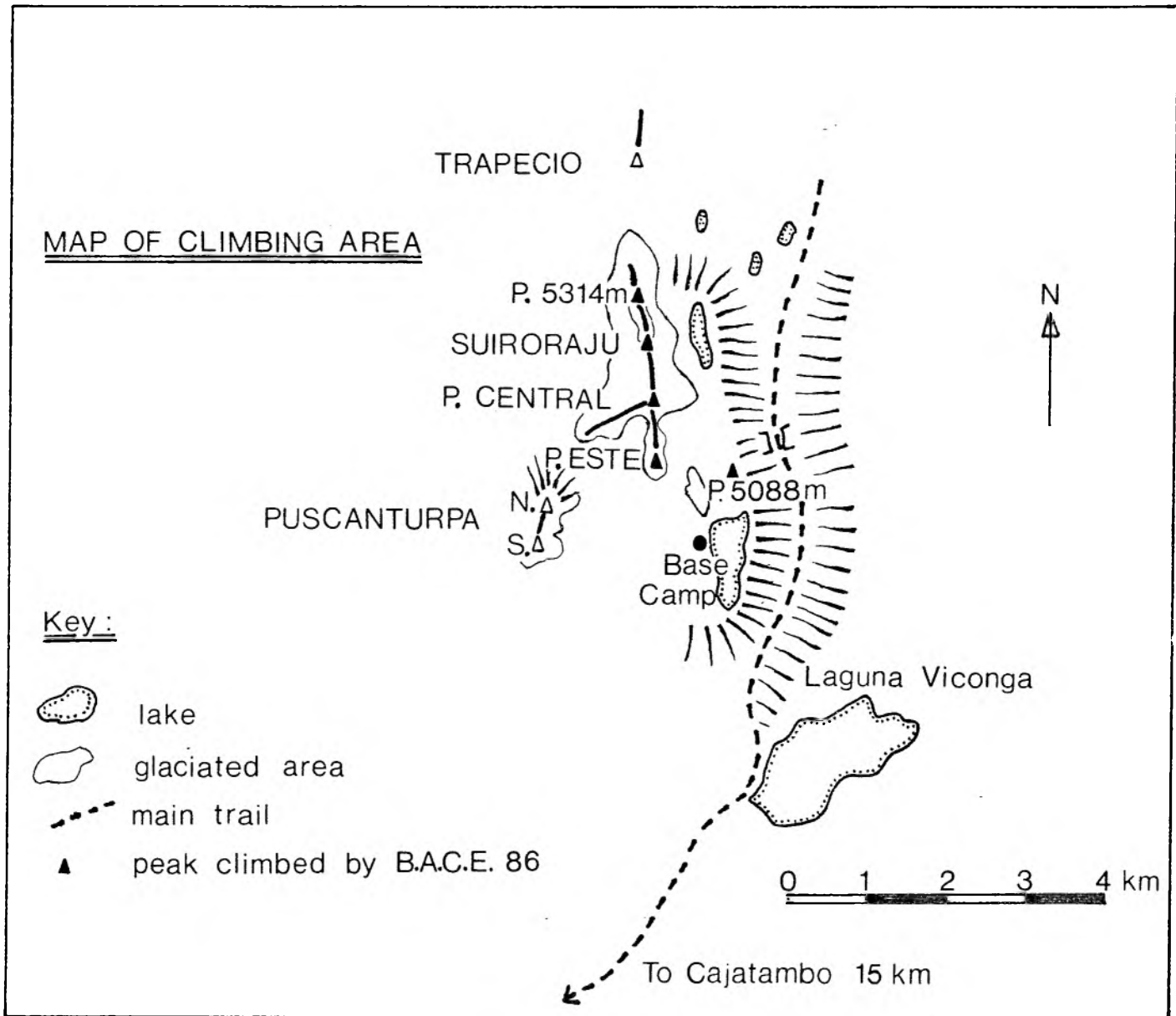
In addition to the successful climbs above two other attempts were made on more difficult routes :

- 1) Attempt on the East couloir of Puscanturpa Norte 5652m - failed due to poor snow conditions where couloir merged into South-East Face. 4th August '86
Climbers : J.Nixon, T.Relton.
- 2) Attempt on the East Face of Puscanturpa Este 5410m - failed due to poor weather and difficult, technical climbing on the second day.
11th / 12th August '86.
Climbers : J.Nixon, I.Saville.

LOCATION MAPS:



MAP OF CLIMBING AREA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :

The British Andean Climbing Expedition 1986 is very grateful for the financial assistance received from the British Mountaineering Council and the Mount Everest Foundation.

The team would also like to thank the following for their help or advice :

H.Adams-Carter - Editor of the American Alpine Journal

Joe Brown (from Horden)

Kodak Ltd.

Andy Lewis and the staff at LD Mountain Centre, Newcastle.

Mark Lowe

Dr Cesar Morales-Arnau - Lima

Will Patterson

Al Rouse

Geoff Tier

Richard Johnson

- and the many friends we made on our visit to Peru.

CONTACT :

John Nixon - Leader

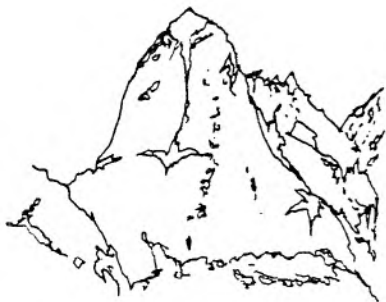
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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

<u>EXPENDITURE :</u>	£
Insurance	630 - 00
Communal equipment	215 - 00
Travel (UK)	50 - 00
Medical	32 - 00
Photography	342 - 62
Flights	2040 - 00
Food and fuel	164 - 85
Travel (Peru)	112 - 35
Labour	161 - 65
Living costs (Peru)	571 - 25
Misc.	82 - 00
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TOTAL	£ 4401 - 72

INCOME :

Mount Everest Foundation	300 - 00
British mountaineering Council	200 - 00
Contributions by team members	3901 - 72
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TOTAL	£ 4401 - 72

J. Nixon

25/10/86.