

87/25



# JADE VENTURE

TO XIXABANGMA 1987



JOINT PATRONS



GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE  
GCB CBE DSO DL



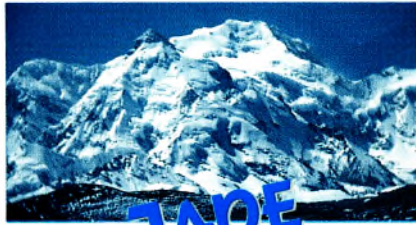
ERIC FODING

An expedition to climb the virgin face of the highest mountain in China



• Scientific Exploration Society •

+674-1



(Hamish Fulton)

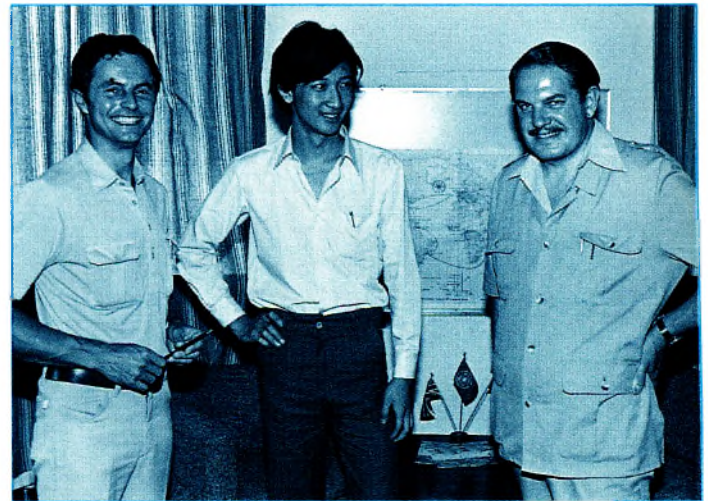
# JADE VENTURE

Xixabangma is the 13th highest mountain in the world. It is also the greatest Himalayan peak to be entirely within the borders of the People's Republic of China.

In September 1987, a British expedition will set out to climb the virgin east face of Xixabangma (pronounced Shishapangma). Code-named JADE VENTURE, the expedition will draw its members from the British Army and experienced civilians. The Scientific Exploration Society (SES) has approved and will co-ordinate the scientific research the team will carry out.

Among the subjects that will be studied are atmospheric pollution in snow; the hydrology of the numerous lakes about the peak; and the structure, temperature and movement of glaciers.

One of the goals of JADE VENTURE is the encouragement of Himalayan mountaineering. Ten young 'aspirants' will be part of the team. These are younger climbers who will gain experience they would not otherwise have had of working and climbing at higher altitudes.



(Left to right) Lt Col Henry Day, a representative of the Chinese Mountaineering Association, and Col John Blashford-Snell at the signing in 1984 of the protocol to mount JADE VENTURE.



Chinese Mountaineering Association Truck No 1 (D.V. Nicholls)

The expedition is even more remarkable when considered as an example of international co-operation. This is one of the first foreign expeditions to be granted permission by the Chinese to conduct research in the region. There has been much useful discussion with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a Chinese scientist has been invited to be part of the team.

There will certainly be a book and many magazine articles about JADE VENTURE. Presentations and lectures will follow - as may a film. Sponsors are still needed to help with the cost of preparing, transporting and supplying this unique expedition.

# JADE VENTURE

TO XIXABANGMA 1987

87/25

## REPORT ON JADE VENTURE 3 BRITISH XIXABANGMA EXPEDITION 1987

### References:

- A. "Report on a Mountaineering Exploration in Tibet (Jade Venture 2)". 16 Oct 84.
- B. "Regulations for Foreign Mountaineering & Tourist Groups conducting Expeditions in China". CMA, Beijing Nov 84.
- C. "Provisions on the Collection of Charges from foreign mountaineering or trekking groups in China". CMA Beijing Jan 87.
- D. "Tibet-a travel survival kit". Lonely Planet Publications 1986.
- E. Map 1:3million "The Mountains of Central Asia". Royal Geographical Society & Mount Everest Foundation. Macmillan Ltd 87.
- F. Map 1:1million "South Central Tibet. Kathmandu-Lhasa route map". Edward Stanford Ltd 1987.
- G. Map 1:50 000 "Regional Map of Mount Xixabangma". CMA 1987.

### BACKGROUND

1. Xixabangma is the 13th highest mountain in the world and the tallest to lie wholly within the borders of China. By the latest Chinese survey to be published (reference F), its height is 8027 metres or 26329 feet. Xixabangma is the pinyin rendering of Shishapangma which has also been known as Gosainthan.

2. The Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) agreed in August 1984 that a team of mountaineers under the leadership of Lt Col MWH Day should be allowed to attempt to climb the virgin East face of Xixabangma in 1987.

3. The expedition was promoted by the Scientific Exploration Society under its Chairman Col JN Blashford-Snell. The expedition was authorised by the CMA to conduct scientific research along the route of the climb, the scope of which was to be agreed with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Col JN Blashford-Snell was to direct the Scientific & Support Group in the field while Dr HA Osmaston was to plan and coordinate the scientific programme.

### AIM

4. The aim of Jade Venture was to climb the virgin East face of Xixabangma and to conduct scientific research in the area.

### THE SES TIBET EXPEDITION 1987

*The ascent and scientific survey of Mt. Xixabangma (8013m) in Tibet*

JOINT PATRONS: Eric Hotung, General Sir John Mogg GCB, CBE, DSO, DL

DIRECTOR: Colonel J N Blashford-Snell MBE, DSc(Hon), FRSGS

CLIMBING LEADER: Lieutenant Colonel M W H Day MA, RE

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR: Dr. A H Osmaston MA, D Phil. TREASURER: Captain H R G Fulton

BANKERS: THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, 64 George Street, Edinburgh

Approved and supported by

THE SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY, A REGISTERED CHARITY. REGISTRATION No: 247410

676.1

## COMPOSITION & MEMBERS

5. There were 19 climbers in the team all being British, Chung Kin Man coming from Hong Kong. Eight of them were soldiers, one from the Territorial Army. The Science and Support party included 2 Americans and Ivan Hui from Hong Kong. The team deliberately included a number of "aspirants", younger climbers with a good alpine record and with the potential to do well in the greater ranges. The 10 youngest members of the team were aged between 18 and 23. A list of all the team members is at Annex A.

6. Attached to the expedition by the CMA were Mr Ho as the Liaison Officer, Mr Wei as Interpreter as well as the driver of the truck that was to remain on call at Nyalam. Two Chinese scientists joined the party in Nepal.

## SPONSORSHIP

7. The expedition would not have gone ahead without the most generous financial help received from our 2 major sponsors. ICI (Hong Kong) and in UK took a great deal of interest in our plans and sponsored Hui to come with us. Mr Eric Hotung was the sort of benefactor expeditions dream of. His support and encouragement was outstanding. Mountaineering grants are acknowledged with gratitude from the Mount Everest Foundation, the Army Mountaineering Association, and the British Mountaineering Council. The Bank of Boston and Cathay Pacific are thanked for their generous support. Acknowledgement is given to the many firms who loaned or supplied goods gratis or at favourable rates. Photographs and reports on these products are being prepared. Without all this support the expedition could not have gone to Tibet.

## ROUTE AND ITINERARY

8. Nepal. The team assembled in Kathmandu during the first 10 days of September and began the difficult task of clearing the expedition freight through customs. The expedition agent Mr Mike Cheney and his company, Rover Treks & Expeditions (P) Ltd, not only made arrangements to transport the freight to the Nepal/China border but also arranged acclimatisation treks in the Jugal Himal for the team members.

a. Freight. Nepal customs eventually released the expedition freight in bond once the 300 ration boxes had been sewn and sealed into hessian sacks (3 boxes to a sack). Another option would have been to seal the freight into secure trucks and only open them in the presence of customs officials at the border. However the Friendship Highway had been blocked by a number of landslides as a result of heavy monsoon rains and vehicles from Kathmandu could only reach Barabise, a distance of 89 out of 122 kms. Expeditions going in to Tibet before the monsoon had used this method satisfactorily. By September the road was also blocked beyond Lamosangu and a new set of porters had to be hired at each obstruction as well as vehicles being used where they were available, having been trapped between landslides. A final porter lift across the border took place on 18 September as far as vehicles provided by the CMA which were waiting where the road was

next clear, above Zhangmu (Khasa). The location of the blockages both at the start of the expedition and on the return journey in November is shown on the map at Annex B.

b. Trekking. To assist in both fitness and acclimatisation to altitude, it was arranged that the team would trek in to Tibet through the Jugal Himal, from Balephi to the frontier at Kodari. The team was split into 3 parties for this while House and Kimber undertook the frustrating task of escorting the freight along the valley below. Day's party left Kathmandu on 9 September and within a day suffered their first leeches and monsoon rain while climbing up through forests to the ridgeline of the Darlinje Danda. In 5 days they reached the holy lake of Bhairab Kund at an altitude of 4000 metres. The first group had time to go higher and carried a camp within range of a 5000 metre peak which was reached by Davison on 15 September. Venables' party had arrived at Bhairab Kund by then as had the scientists under Osmaston. J. Blashford-Snell, Fulton, and Griffin had returned to the valley earlier during the trek and were assisting with the freight. The rest were enjoying the full bandobast laid on by Rover Treks in spite of the leeches and rain; but the general verdict was that trekking in the monsoon would not catch on!

c. Gas. Three hundred cylinders of propane/butane gas, each weighing 250 grams, and intended to be used for cooking above Base Camp on Xixabangma, were airfreighted out of London in August for delivery to Kathmandu. At the time of writing they are believed to be in Delhi, incurring demurrage, and will not be released except by air to UK. A total of about 200 smaller cartridges was obtained by scouring the bazaar in Kathmandu. Through Mike Cheney's efforts half of these were forwarded after the expedition had left for China. Without them the expedition would have failed.

## 9. China.

a. As arranged with the CMA the climbing team crossed the frontier at Friendship Bridge on 18 September and in due course met up with Ho and Wei and the transport (see map of border crossing at Annex C, drawn by HRG Fulton). The first drama was with the Chinese customs officials who initially refused to accept their own currency in payment for dutiable goods. Day was confined for several hours until the exchange rate for Sterling to Renminbi was obtained from the bank; an inauspicious start to what was to prove a stressful relationship with officials throughout their time in Tibet. At dusk all the loads had been assembled next to 2 CMA trucks and it was clear something would have to stay behind until one of the trucks could deliver its load to Nyalam and return to Zhangmu. Francis volunteered to remain overnight with the surplus stores, undeterred by the aroma of the rotting carcass of a dead dog that lay in a ditch a few metres from the stack of stores. As darkness closed in, so did a menacing crowd of Tibetans who clearly intended to help themselves to the gear. The anxious group hastily induced the driver of a waiting truck to take them and the kit and with relief escaped to Nyalam.

b. From Nyalam to Base Camp. A camp was set up in Nyalam by the bridge over the Phu Chu on the site where the reconnaissance party had pitched their tents in 1984. The route to Base Camp was straightforward at that time of year and team members had no difficulty in proceeding, except those who were afflicted by a virus that had been picked up in Kathmandu. The limitation on progress was once again transport - this time yaks. Ho did well to begin with and the 9 yaks ordered reported as bidden on 20 September albeit late and with more than the 3 drivers stipulated. The first difficulty occurred 4 1/2 hours later when "Ski Goggles", who aspired to be the shop steward of the yakkers, wanted to stop at the foot of Bang Zeng Na Buzhe Pass when the camp lay just over the top of it. After a frank exchange of views the carry was completed as planned and the crucial matter of stages established. If it had become the practice to make the journey to base in 3 days rather than 2 the expedition would be seriously delayed. As it was loads were still arriving at Base on 1 October and the balance of the climbers loads was only complete when the scientific party arrived 2 weeks later, by which time the lead climbers were tackling the headwall nearly 2000 metres above. This slow build-up kept back almost half the team and delayed stocking of camps up the mountain. The scientific party followed a separate programme during this period and Dr Osmaston's preliminary report is at Annex E.

c. To the Ridgeline. The reconnaissance in 1984 had identified 2 sections of the route that would most likely cause difficulty. The first problem was to gain access to the Phola glacier above a moraine-dammed lake. The other was the threat posed by a huge barrier of ice cliffs that hung half way up the east face. In the event the moraine covered glacier was penetrated at the first attempt on 23 September by a party headed by Venables. They sited a temporary camp on the far side of the worst of the moraine at a point that gave clear access to the main glacier as well as the tributary beyond Pungpa Ri's east ridge (see map at Annex D). However their closer view of Xixabangma's east face revealed that the ice barrier was even more threatening than it had been in 1984 and they were unanimous in recommending an alternative approach. After inspecting the East face and the options Day concurred and 2 possibilities were shortlisted; via the East ridge of Pungpa Ri (and thence up the South ridge of Xixabangma to the top) or an even wider left hook. Venables' party started pushing a route up through the ice cliffs of the tributary glacier the same day and they were so successful that the route was secured with rope where required - and a wire ladder on a 30 metre wall that was almost vertical - by 3 October. (A diary of events is at Annex F). The next day the weather broke after a 10 day period of cloudless skies and Griffin led all 10 members out of Advance Base. However 6 of them thought better of it and turned back so were well placed when the storm passed to stock Camp 1 (5700 metres) and move up to Camp 2 (6200 metres) at the foot of the headwall. Every length of rope the expedition had left was fixed on the 500 metre high wall. The route led up hard ice and picked its way from boulder to boulder to which ropes were secured with pitons. Camp 3 was an ice cave dug into the ridge at an

altitude of 6800 metres. From there to the summit of Xixabangma was 3 1/2 kilometres measured off the map. Camp 3 was only reached by Venables and Gore on 15 October as progress had been held up by lack of rock pitons and rope. Also the effects of altitude and sickness was taking its toll amongst the climbers. Day had retired to Base with pneumonia. Venables, Hughes, Vlasto, Phillips and Chung also descended for a rest while Williams, Francis, Garratt and Wells moved up to Camp 2 for a first bid for the summit. They had oxygen equipment .

d. Storm. The big snowfall began at Base Camp half an hour before midnight on the night of 17/18 October but it had been snowing gently all day at the higher camps. Only half a metre fell that night but that was enough to collapse the mess shelter—a large tank tarpaulin—as well as the bell tents. Next day dawned clear with a strong, cold wind. Tents were dug out and broken poles repaired. The excellent Phillips radios, which never let the expedition down, enabled climbers trapped in all the camps to keep in touch with one another. At Camp 2 there was concern that the build-up of fresh snow on the headwall might avalanche so the team moved themselves and their tents to the lower side of a convenient crevasse and topped the pile of stores with a 2 metre tall bamboo wand. Snow fell again the next night and did not cease for 2 nights and a day. Early on the morning of 19 October Griffin led another retreat from Advance Base and this time spent 2 days on the journey with a night out on the glacier. House and Kimber stayed in place and experienced the ordeal of their tent becoming a snowcave as it was buried in 3 metres of snow, half of it above the ridgepole of the tent. They kept track of all the tents and stores so were able to direct the digging that was necessary to recover enough to continue the climb after the storm. Even at Base Camp tents were buried and poles broken (again) in spite of continuous digging. The scientists kept their bell tent propped up with yak boxes and the same was done with the mess shelter. There was a queue for every shovel. At Camp 2 the 4 climbers kept their tents clear as best they could with their hands but realised at dusk on 19 October they had lost sight of the wand on top of the cache of equipment. The next day was sunny but windy and Hughes used snowshoes to break a trail back towards ABC to assist Griffin's party who were making slow progress; less than 2 kilometres in 24 hours. Soon after Davison struggled in from the scientists camp at the Kung Tso and reported they needed help so another team went out to help them in. It was the eve of Osmaston's 65th birthday and he spent it nursing frost-nipped toes. Meanwhile William's party withdrew down the mountain in good order to Camp 1 - where nothing remained. A great deal of equipment had been lost but otherwise they were fit to go on. Elsewhere in the Himalayas from Everest to Ladakh climbers were abandoning their camps and struggling out of the mountains.

e. Summit Bid. Using snow-shoes the team found the route could be re-opened and Day made a trail to Advance Base to relieve Kimber and House who had already dug out much kit and thereby saved the day for a summit attempt. Williams and party met up with them having had an arduous descent of the icefall because of the deep

fresh snow. Venables and Hughes supported by Vlasto and Phillips retraced the tracks to Camp 2 carrying up replacement personal equipment and tentage. A critical shortage of gas and food for the summit bid was solved by Upton & Day carrying some up to Camp 1 on 24 October from where Vlasto and Phillips took it on to Camp 2 the same evening. Meanwhile Venables & Hughes were on their way. On their first day from the snow cave they carried a tent to 7370 metres then went on to the summit of Pungpa Ri (7486 metres/24 550 feet) which they reached at 2 o'clock. This was the second ascent and in the upper section joined the route taken by Doug Scott's party which first climbed it from the West in 1983. Next day they bypassed the summit on the West flank and rejoined the South ridge of Xixabangma. At one o'clock they became visible through binoculars from a position at the edge of the glacier below Advance Base where a party of four had assembled to watch. The ridge appeared foreshortened from there and progress appeared to be rapid and they did not seem to have much farther to go to the top when they disappeared from view at 1545 hrs. Later it was learnt that they had dug another snow cave at a height of 7650 metres and spent the night in it. They had eaten the last of their food before setting off on 27 October but had some gas left for melting snow for drinking. They had seen a big build up of cloud the night before and they emerged in the morning to find a strong wind was blowing. Hughes was already showing signs of frostbite and this, together with the windchill, drove them to make the reluctant decision to turn back. Bitterly disappointed, they descended to their tent at "Camp 4" where there was food. Meanwhile Vlasto had been joined at Camp 3 in the snow cave by Williams, replacing Phillips who had fallen sick from the effects of altitude. On 28 October they too reached the summit of Pungpa Ri and even made a radio transmission from the top at 1230 hours.

f. Exodus. During this exciting period a message was received from the LO that a storm was forecast for 29/30 October, the warning having originated at the meteorological office in Nyalam. The scientists and the CMA officials had descended there by then, but with difficulty as the snow had not consolidated as it had further up the mountain. There was also a problem at Base Camp as fuel for cooking was getting crucially short, so House, Freeman-Attwood and Chung struggled down with the scientists as far as Intermediate Camp to recover a jerry can of petrol. They took with them a radio so for this period there were communications from Base to within a days walk of Nyalam. Over this link one of the observers of the pair going for the summit said he thought they had made it and this unofficial message went down the line to the LO at Nyalam. From there it went to the Xinghua news agency at Beijing, and thence to the British media. Meanwhile all the climbers descended to Base Camp to await the forecasted storm which manifested itself as a cold front with high winds, clear skies, and a noticeable drop in temperature which fell to minus 18 degrees C overnight at Base Camp. Reviewing the position, there seemed no reason to prevent a further attempt on the summit of Xixabangma. Venables was fighting fit and half a dozen of the team who could delay their return to UK declared themselves keen to support him. All camps were in place and partly stocked and the



route prepared with fixed ropes where they were needed. Just as the plan was starting to be put into action a message was received via the LO that in the aftermath of the great storm- and, unstated, the Lhasa riots -all western expeditions were being terminated and they were to leave the mountains forthwith. This was a real blow but there was no way to appeal; so Advance Base was abruptly packed up and equipment cached on top of a huge rock. Day, Venables and Wells carried as much as they could manage down to Base from where a column of men could be seen streaming down the valley, clearly unencumbered by yak boxes. This was the so called "rescue party" sent up from Nyalam by local government officials and the CMA. On arrival at Base the porters had declined to carry any loads -just what they were expected to do was never established-until Williams induced them to reconsider with presents of expedition property. They were thus persuaded to carry half loads of about 10 kgs each but even so lightly laden they took 3 days to reach Nyalam. The little that was portered out was carried on to either Kathmandu or Lhasa and will be returned to UK in due course. About 30 loads remained at Base and arrangements are being made for its recovery by members who will be returning to Tibet next spring with the British Services Everest Expedition. J Blashford-Snell and the scientists had already left Nyalam for Kathmandu and sent word back that the road was impassable to vehicles 8 kilometres beyond Nyalam. So porters had to be found to carry the loads an extra 25 kilometres to the border at Zhangmu.

g. Through Tibet to Beijing. The CMA require an expedition representative to visit the appropriate regional capital at the end of the climb to discuss expenditure and then to settle accounts in Beijing. Experience has shewn that several members are needed at the negotiations to match the CMA treasurer's team. Day, Hughes and Venables were to undertake the job and subsequently our generous patron Mr Eric Hotung invited eight of the team to join him in Beijing for a banquet he wished to give in recognition of the expedition's achievements. J Blashford-Snell would arrive via Hong Kong and Chung, Hui, Osmaston, Stephany and Urschel joined the overland party. A map showing the route taken by the overland party is at Annex G. The beauty of the first stage of the journey was stunning. The Tibetan plateau is usually a drab brown colour but since the storm it had been covered in snow and as the sun set they drove past some of the greatest mountains on earth; Everest, Lhotse, Makalu and Cho Oyu as well as Xixabangma. Five of the world's thirteen 8000 metre peaks! It was a thrilling sight. As they had driven across the Lalung La, at the same height as Base Camp, they had looked back on Xixabangma and seen the great South ridge no longer foreshortened. Just how far it was from Pungpa Ri to the top was made clear and it was remarkable that Stephen and Luke had got as far as they did, and had spent so long without support at that altitude. That night the vehicles pulled into the Chinese cantonment in Xegar, a caravanserie where the paths of climbers from all over the world cross on their ways to the great peaks. A brief word was had with the Japanese soldiers who had been attempting the West ridge of Everest, of great interest to the 5 members of Jade Venture that will be next on the same route in the spring. A highlight of the

journey was the bath in hot spring water near Lhatze next day. It was 5 November; the previous hot bath had been at Tatopani in Nepal on 17 September. After a stopover in Xigatse, sadly having arrived too late to get into Tashilhunpo Monastery, they reached Lhasa in time to stroll beneath the Potala by the light of a full moon. The atmosphere around the city was not friendly. There were far more Chinese colonists around than there had been 3 years before and they outnumbered Tibetans on the street. There were almost no foreigners. All individual travellers had been ordered out after the disturbances of 1 October and only previously booked groups were being admitted. The treatment of the team by officials of the Tibetan Mountaineering Association was offhand and the negotiations acrimonious and protracted. Their passports had been collected on a pretext and their return refused as a means of exerting pressure. At the airport the team's baggage alone was subjected to a vigorous search by security police who confiscated some of Osmaston's rock samples, the collection of which had been sanctioned by the Academy of Science. They were glad to leave.

h. Beijing. The team was not expected in Beijing that night as their arrival from Lhasa had not been notified. When a CMA minibus did arrive at the airport it was meant for a joint Japanese/Chinese team that had made the first ascent of Choksiam (7316 metres), a peak the Jade Venture team had admired to the east of Xixabangma. They were taken to the CMA's hotel, the Bei-wei, where Day had first negotiated to climb in China in 1980. There was a day before their flight left for Hong Kong which gave time for sightseeing - and the much discussed settling of the bill. At 1630 hrs the full Jade Venture negotiating team assembled with tactics well rehearsed. At 1635 hrs a message came that the negotiator was still tied up with another team and they would have to reassemble at 1930 hrs. As an invitation to the British Embassy at that time had been accepted already, they preferred to postpone the talks till the following morning but were warned that if business was not concluded then they would have to miss the plane. So at 0830 hrs next morning the 2 teams met. The CMA were led by Wang who had been simply the "treasurer" in 1980 and was now promoted Vice-President. His eyes lit up when he recognised an old adversary. It was a match played by CMA rules, the last of which states: "The right to interpret and alter these provisions belongs to the CMA". Nevertheless in 2 hours the extra charges were reduced by £1000 to £2600 over the budgeted figure (details of the estimated and actual CMA expenditure are given at Annexures H&J). We shook hands, caught the bus to the airport and flew back to England.

## CONCLUSIONS

10. Although the summit was not quite attained, a new route was made up Xixabangma from the East that joined with known ground on the South ridge. Mountaineering of a high standard challenged all the team members and 4 had the satisfaction of standing on the summit of Pungpa Ri (7486m), the second and third ascents of that mountain.

11. The route from Kathmandu and Zhangmu to Xixabangma is subject to delays when the rain washes out the road. These blockages lead to

extra expense as porters and extra vehicles need to be hired at rates that are difficult to predict. The CMA cannot guarantee this entry into Tibet. Nevertheless the approach is still recommended for expeditions approaching from Europe.

12. The Chinese Mountaineering Association are to be thanked for making all arrangements in China for the expedition. There is no need to take a CMA interpreter if a team member can be found who can speak Mandarin. If the CMA's monopoly is removed it is hoped that some of their charges will be reduced.

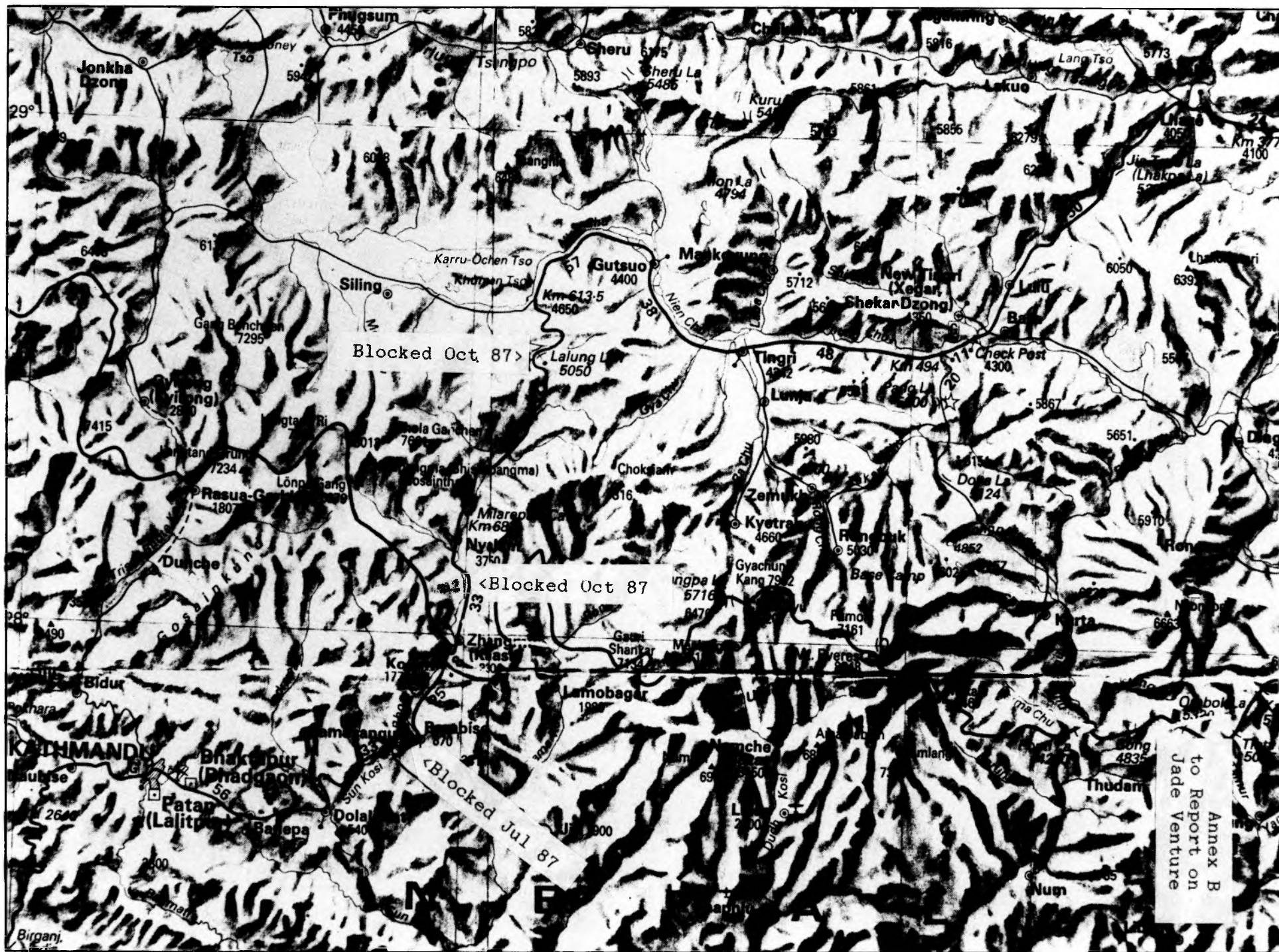
13. Finally, all the members wish to thank the Patrons, sponsors and supporters who helped to make Jade Venture possible.

## XIXABANGMA 87-MEMBERS ADDRESSES

23Nov87

Annex A  
to Report on  
Jade Venture

- 1 Lt Col MWH Day 14 Conduit Head Rd, Cambridge CB3 OEY  
(Henry) Tel:0223-314543
- 2 Chung Kin Man 1/F, On Yip Bldg, 395-7 Shanghai St, Monkong, Kowloon, HK  
Tel:HK 3-848190 Telex:33552 MTCTR HX
- 3 BM Davison (until Christmas):32 Borrowdale, Cambridge CB4 3HU  
(Brian) Tel:0223-66699 Office:0223-61188 ext 266
- 4 RW Durran 11 Eskside West, Musselburgh, Midlothian EH21 6PL  
(Robert) Tel:031-665-2682
- 5 Capt DRK Francis 7 RHA, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2NQ  
(Duncan) Tel:0252-25531 ext 2531 (day)
- 6 HRG Fulton 43 Cardross St, London W6 ODP  
(Hamish) Tel:01-741 3831 Office:01-236 7307
- 7 Capt JPJ Garratt 1st Bn Grenadier Gds, Oxford Bks, Munster, BFPO 17  
(Jonny) Tel:Munster Mil 417 (evg) or 457 In UK:01-677 8708
- 8 LN Griffin 2 Top Sling, Tregarth, Bangor, Gwynedd, N Wales, LL57 4RL  
(Lindsay) Tel:0248 602589 Headley Court Tel:0372-372079
- 9 LCpl JH House C Coy, 1st Bn Devonshire & Dorset Regt, Kiwi Bks,  
(John) Bulford, Wilts
- 10 LA Hughes 1 Stukeley St, London WC2B 5LQ  
(Luke) Tel:01-404 5995 Wksp:01-405 1839
- 11 LCpl JC Kimber A Troop, 6 Squadron, 3 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT, BFPO 34  
(Jim) Tel:Duisberg Mil 252
- 12 JM O'Brien-Gore 8 Cartland Drive, Dishley, Loughboro', Leics LE11 0YD  
(Jerry) Tel:0509-842867
- 13 Miss KM Phillips 5 White Cross Rd, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Buck HP17 8BA  
(Kate) Tel:0844 290182
- 14 JDW Freeman-Attwood, Woodhouse Hall Estate, Rednal, Oswestry, Shropshire.  
(Julian) Tel:0691-88 439
- 15 Dr MN Upton 19 Campdale Rd, Tufnell Park, London N7 OEB  
(Mark) Tel:01-263 4140 c/o mother 0628 74359
- 16 SMW Venables 71 Ferntower Rd, London N5 2JE Tel:01-354 0451  
(Stephen) til 5 Sep:c/o Hunza Inn, Gilgit, N Area, Pakistan
- 17 Lt J Vlasto 4 Armd Div & Sig Regt, BFPO 15  
(John) Home Tel:0747 840279
- 18 AJ Wells Sadlers, Long Wittenham, Nr Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QN  
(Alastair) Tel:086730-7853 Father's office:0793-24251
- 19 Capt GN Williams 13 King St, Warminster, Wilts BA12 8DG  
(Nigel) Tel:0985-218195
- SCIENCE & SUPPORT PARTY
- 20 Col JN Op Raleigh, The Powerhouse, Alpha Pl, Flood St, Chelsea,  
Blashford-Snell London SW3 5SZ Tel:01-351 7541 Fax:01-351 9372  
(John) Flat Tel:01-730 3532 Home Tel:0225 742451
- 21 Miss Emma Basement 59 Harley St, London W1 N1DD  
Blashford-Snell Tel:01-636 5785
- 22 JP Cook 46 Farleigh Ave, Trowbridge, Wilts  
(Jonathan) Tel:02214-63840 Office:02214-2255
- 23 DrJE Davies The Manor Surgery, Chapel St, Redruth, Cornwall  
(John) Tel:Redruth 212223 Home:Truro 863201
- 24 Miss MC Evans 30 Arnos Grove, Southgate, London N14  
(Marian) Tel:01-882 2530
- 25 Ivan Hui
- 26 Ms Annabel Huxley Brook Lodge, Old Alresford, Hants
- 27 Dr HA Osmaston Dept of Geog, University Rd, Bristol BS8 1SS  
(Henry) Tel:0272-303030 x3846 Home:027 587 2648
- 28 Miss CMA Roberts 101 Havant Rd, East Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 2JE  
(Claire) Tel:0705-379726
- 29 Ms Pamela Stephany, 1761 S.E. 9th St, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33316 USA  
Tel:305-525-8807
- 30 Ms Paula Urschel



Blocked Oct 87

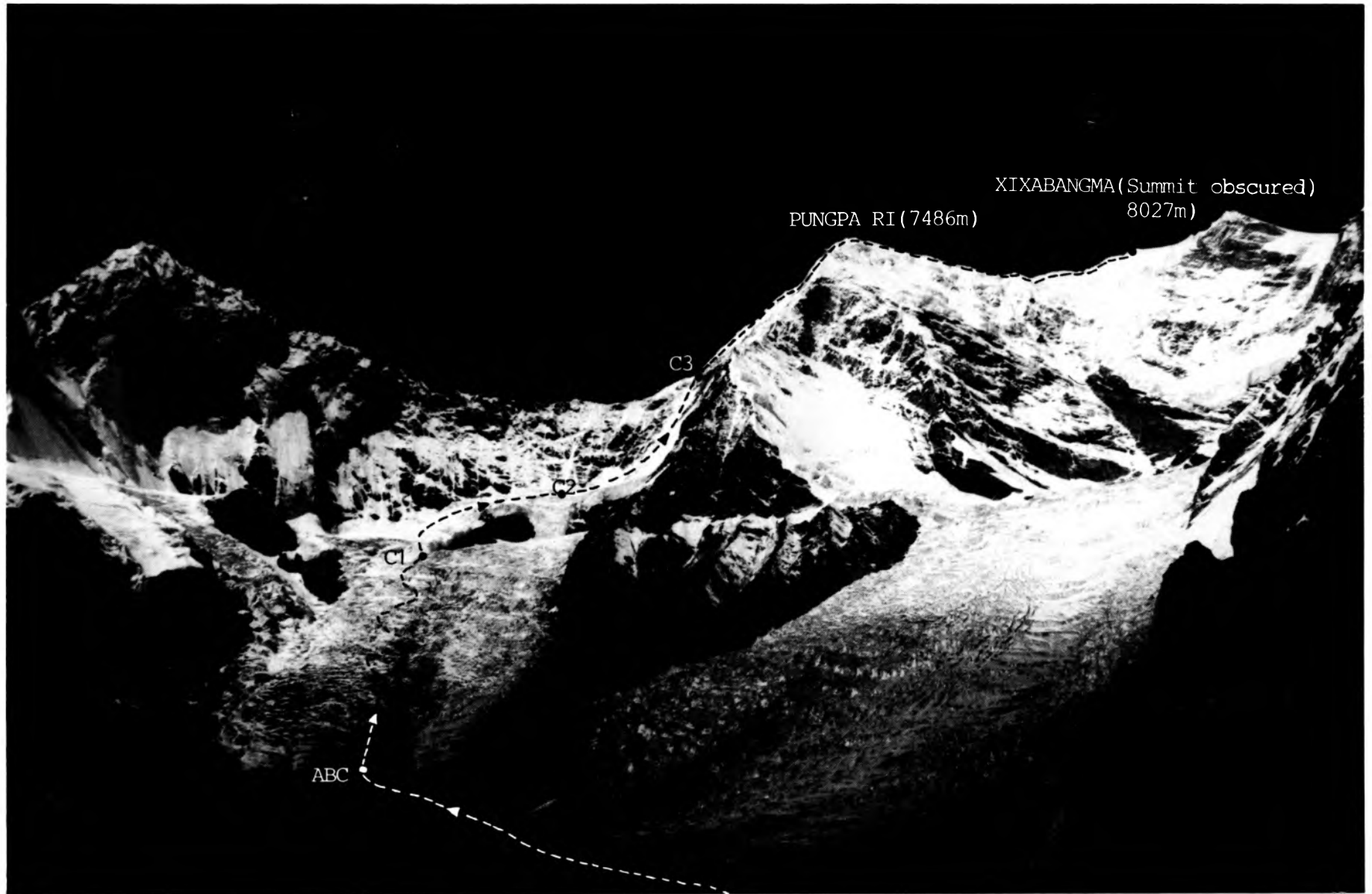
Blocked Oct 87

Blocked Jul 87

Annex B  
to Report on  
Jade Venture



Before the Summit Bid, 21 Oct 87. L to R: Kate Phillips, John Vlasto, Stephen Venables, Luke Hughes.



PUNGPA RI (7486m) XIXABANGMA (Summit obscured)  
8027m

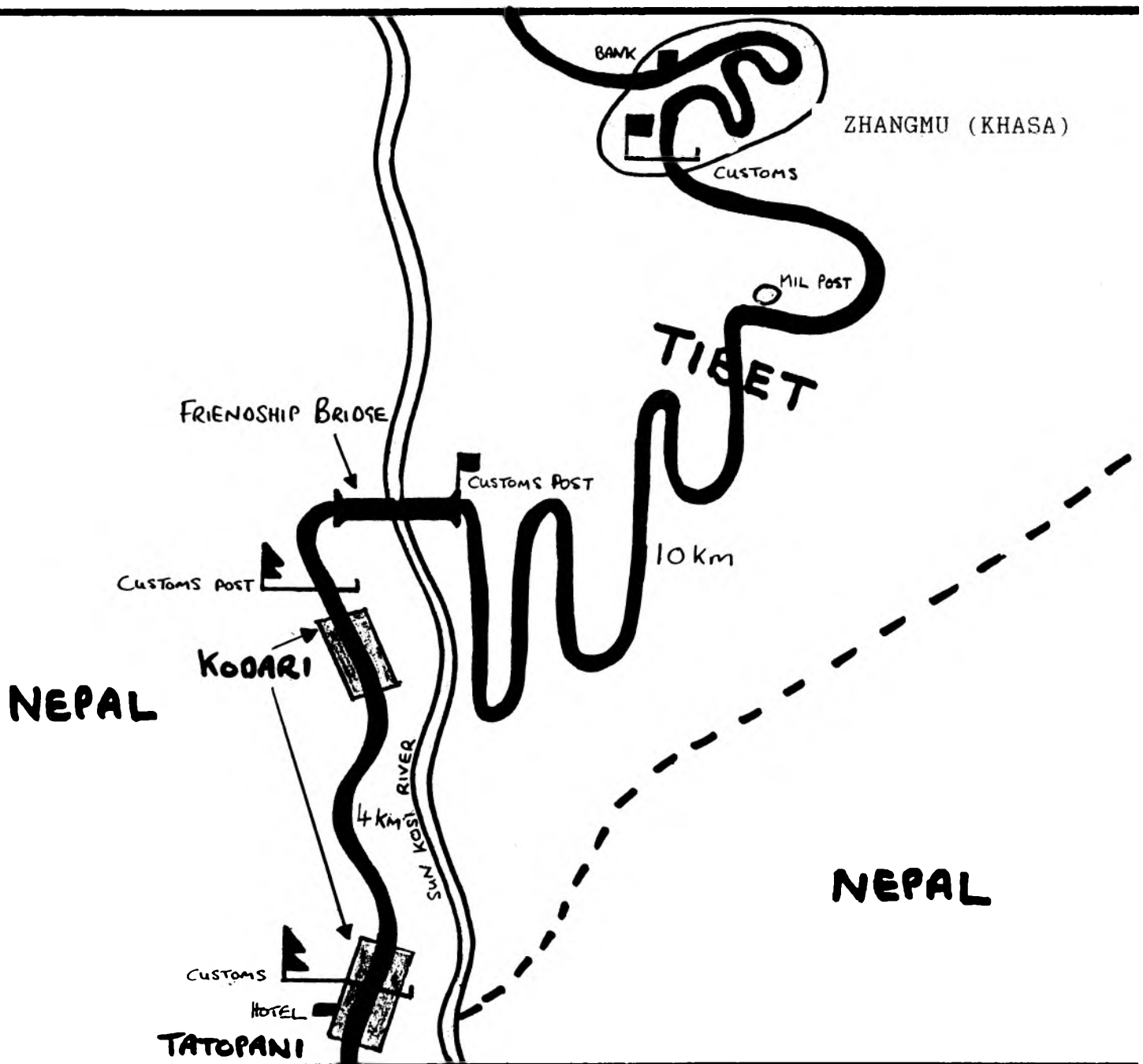
C3

C2

C1

ABC

CHINA (Tibet) / NEPAL FRONTIER





XIXABANGMA 8027m

Annex D  
to Report on  
Jade Venture

PUNGPA RI 7846m

ADVANCE BASE 5200m

BASE CAMP 5000m

Gongco Lake

Jila Valley  
吉日阿甫

to NYALAM (From BC 25km)

Scale 1:50 000

Chongdui Valley

Yongzhang

4678

△5002

5783

5562

6170

4061

4424

5121

6177

6198

5258

5228

5782

5620

6256

6905

5802

6011

5965

5058

5802

石坎地  
stony ground

石坎地  
stony ground

石坎地  
stony ground

石坎地  
stony ground

石坎地  
stony ground

石石  
stone

Dashu

Word-processed on an EPSON PX-8 & printed on an EPSON FX 1000

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC REPORT. (by HAO)

The scientific team comprised 4 geographers from Bristol University, and 2 from the Institute of Geography ,Beijing; one agriculturist from ICI Hong Kong; and one glaciologist from the British Antarctic Survey. Our main aims were to study the present glaciers and to examine the evidence of their greater extent in former times, together with the effect that this still has on the present environment.

Reconnaissances were made of several glaciers which showed an interesting variety, including very active ones, thickly covered with moraine, on the east and south, while others on the drier north side had spectacular ice pyramids up to 50m high. All showed clear evidence of recent retreat from terminal moraines perhaps a few centuries old. Their still greater former extent is evident from the huge moraines which extend for miles down the valleys, to well below Nyalam. We studied the development of soil and vegetation on these moraines, which is controlled by both their age and their altitude. However, unlike in some parts of the Himalaya, there was no clear evidence of there being no more than one major ice-age.

The changes in climate which caused the extension in the glaciers also affected the lakes on the northern plateau, and Pei Ku Lake has a fine series of old beaches reflecting higher lake levels in the past which we surveyed.

The glaciological programme was unfortunately affected by various factors including the burial by blizzard of the steam-boiler and ice-drill, specially made by British Aerospace to enable us to measure ice temperatures. We only found them again with great difficulty after careful resurvey, which also showed that the glacier had flowed about 2m in nine days. Eventually we were able to test the boiler but found that some modifications were needed to increase the burner output which could not be done in the short time remaining. However this field test under very cold, high altitude conditions, represented an important stage in the development of the drill. Many snow samples were collected for chemical analysis, but unfortunately some had to be abandoned due to the blizzard. A complete study was done by one of the Chinese scientists of the water chemistry of some of the lakes and rivers in the area, and we are claiming an altitude record for the use of an Avon inflatable dinghy on the Kung Lake (5168m, 16 597ft).

Our duplicate collections of plants will be shared by the Institute of Botany Beijing and the Kew Herbarium. Both science group and support group recorded the considerable variety of wildlife that we saw, ranging from hoopoes to horses and from voracious leeches to shy wolves.

For all of us, especially the three newly graduated from Bristol, the striking contrasts between the northern, eastern and southern (Nepal) aspects of the mountain have been an immensely stimulating experience, coupled with an opportunity to climb to over 6000m without serious technical difficulty or risk. All this was spiced by a forced bivouac in the blizzard and some mildly frostbitten fingers and toes to show our families and friends.

DIARY (compiled by SMWV)

SEP

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9 Day's party leave on trek. 2nd party arrive Kathmandu.
- 10
- 11 2nd trekking party leave.
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15 Davison climbs Jayal peak.
- 16
- 17 Full climbing team meets at Tatopani.
- 18 Full climbing team arrives at Nyalam.
- 19 Scientists arrive at Nyalam.
- 20 Gore, Francis and Davison establish Intermediate Camp.
- 21 Gore and Francis establish Base Camp.
- 22
- 23 Venables and Vlasto do recce to 1st Advanced Base.
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27 Day arrives at Base camp with donkeys.
- 28
- 29 Venables, Davison and Gore recce icefall. Camp on serac.
- 30 Venables, Davison and Gore continue to Camp 1 and recce to 6000m

OCT

- 1 New Advanced Base established.
- 2 Williams, Garratt and Wells start fixing icefall.
- 3 Venables and Wells complete fixing of icefall.
- 4 At 1800hrs snowfall starts-continues all night.
- 5
- 6 Gang of Four-Williams, Wells, Francis and Garratt-move up to C1.
- 7 Gang of Four establish C2.
- 8 to 15. Finishing of route on headwall.
- 9
- 10 Phillips, Vlasto and Davison move up to C2.
- 11
- 12 Venables, Hughes and Gore move up to C2.
- 13 First lenticular clouds over Everest warn of storm coming.
- 14
- 15 Venables and Gore complete fixing of headwall.
- 16 Venables and Gore complete snow-cave at C3.
- 17 Venables and Gore descend. STORM BREAKS in evening.
- 18 Lull in storm. The Great Mouse Hunt (J B-S). Snow starts again at BC at 1700hrs.
- 19 STORM CONTINUES all day. Griffin et al evacuate ABC. Osmaston

and scientists evacuate Kung Tso camp.  
20 Snowfall stops at 0300hrs.Evacuees arrive at BC.  
21 Hughes,Venables,Phillips and Vlasto leave BC on summit bid.  
22 Summit party to C1.  
23 Summit party to C2.  
24 Hughes and Venables to C3.  
25 Summit pair to C4 (7370m).Pungpa Ri summit at 1400hrs.  
26 Summit pair to C5 snowhole(7650m).Big cloud build-up.  
27 SUMMIT PAIR TO 7700M,then descend to C4.  
28 Summit pair descend to C2.Vlasto and Williams climb Pungpa Ri.  
29 Everyone evacuates C2 and C1.All descend to BC.

30

31

NOV

1 Main team descends to Nyalam.TMA forbids 2nd attempt.  
2 Everyone down to Nyalam.

3

4 Protocol party to Xegar.

5 Williams' party to Zhangmu.Protocol party to Xigatse.

6 to Lhasa.

7 Negotiations with TMA.

8 to Beijing.

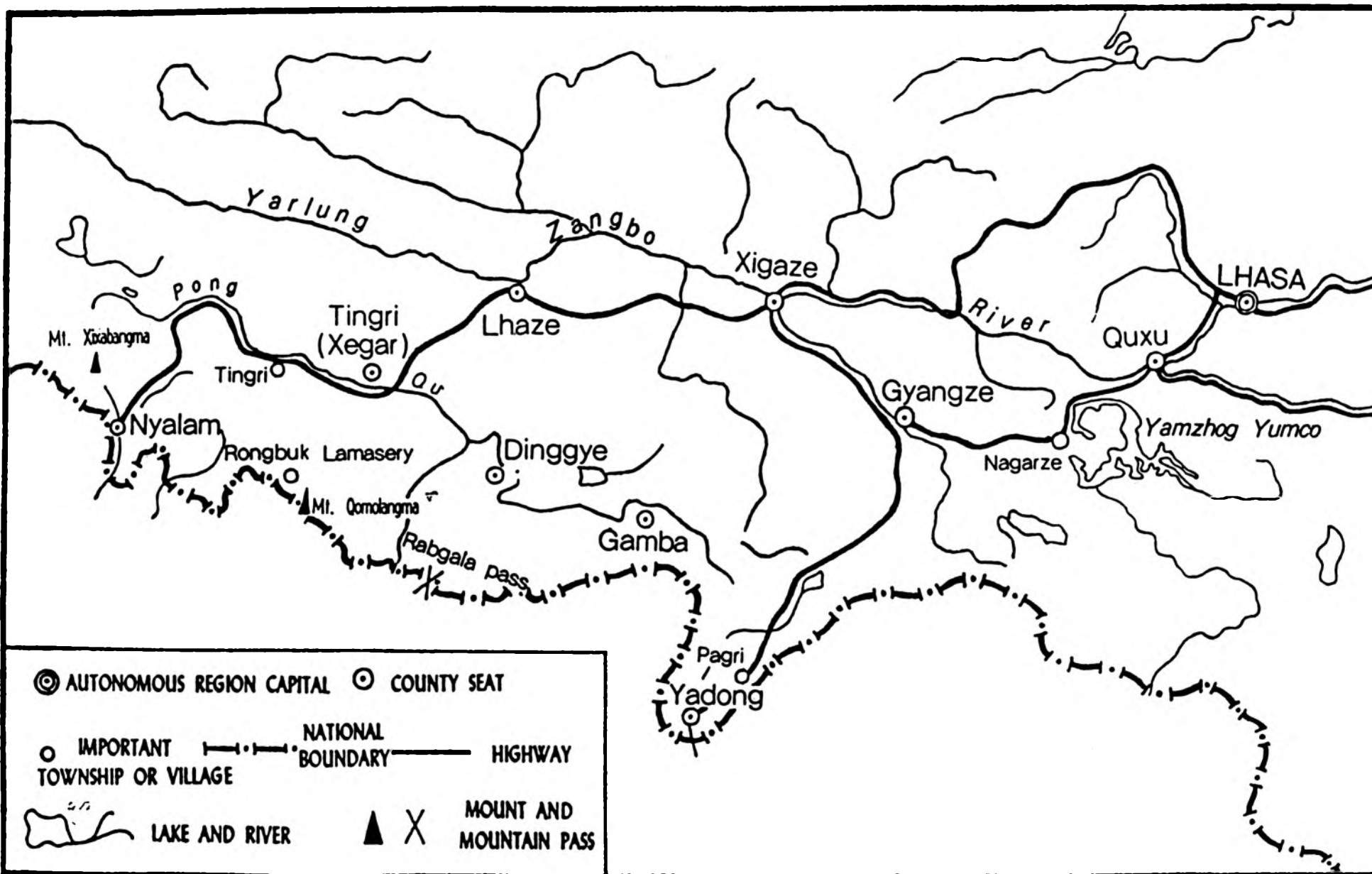
9

10 Negotiations with CMA.Fly to Hong Kong.

11 Press conference in Hong Kong.Depart for London.

12 Arrive in London.

13 Press conference in London.



ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE-BRITISH XIXABANGMA EXPEDITION 1987  
IN COUNTRY COSTS:CHINA/TIBET

11Aug87

xix2.dat

Ser (a)	Items of expenditure (b)	Rate (c)		Cost (yuan) (d)	Sub totl (£) (e)
1.	DEPOSIT-Peak 8000m and above one year before entering China 6 months before entering China one month before entering China	(Yuan) 8000 10000 balance	paid Aug 84 paid May 87 paid Aug 87	3200 10000 70000	
2.	REGISTRATION FEE Peaks of 8000m and above plus per member over 20	5000 100 *	8	3200 800	£ 667
3.	"SUBSIDIES RATES" Liaison officer & interpreter Camp staff (driver) Yak Driver	(Yuan/person/day) 37 * 30 * 16 *	2 * 53 = 1 * 45 = 3 * 10 =	3922 1350 480	£ 959
4.	FOOD/LODGING etc CHARGES Beijing climbing base 2-5 pax Chengdu 2-5 pax Lhasa 2-5 pax Xigaze 2-5 pax Zhangmu over 10 pax	(Yuan/person/day) 175 * 180 * 270 * 150 * 150 *	8 * 2 = 8 * 1 = 8 * 2 = 8 * 1 = * =	2800 1440 4320 1200 0	£ 1627
5.	FOOD EXPENSES IN THE MOUNTAINS LO/Interpreter Base Camp Staff(jeep driver) LA porter/yak driver (below 5000m)	(Yuan/person/day) 28 * 28 * 5 *	2 * 45 = 1 * 45 = 3 * 10 =	2520 1260 150	£ 655
6.	TRANSPORT FEES (in Tibet) (1/2 rates apply for empty vehicles on return trips) 1st class jeep (5 seat)(comes from Lhasa) (remains at Nyalam base camp) (2nd jeep for exit of 8 men-Lhasa) Truck (2.5- 3 tons) based at Xegar (from Xegar to Nyalam,twice) (from Nyalam to frontier,4 times) 2nd class coach,based at Xegar (from Xegar to Nyalam,twice) (from Nyalam to frontier,4 times)	(Yuan/km/journey) 2.5 * 2.5 * 4.8 * 4.8 * 5.5 * 5.5 *	790 * 2 = 790 * 2 = 215 * 3 = 90 * 8 = 215 * 3 = 90 * 8 =	3950 2963 3096 3456 3548 3960	£ 3495
7.	FEES FOR HIRING PACK ANIMALS Horse or yak (below 5000m) Journey fee,1days hire on joining	(Yuan/animal/day) 26 * 30 *	6 * 10 = 6 * 2 =	1560 360	£ 320
8.	INSURANCE Death/injury,LO & CMA men Death/injury,porters & yak drivers Medical	(Sum assured/rate%/person) 25000 * 0.006 * 15000 * 0.006 * 5000 * 0.01 *	3 = 3 = 6 =	450 270 300	£ 170
9.	HIRE OF EQUIPMENT LO & other Chinese personnel Porters & yak drivers	(Yuan/person/expedition) 700 * 200 *	2 * 1 = 3 * 1 =	1400 600	£ 333
10.	HIRE OF BASE CAMP TENTS local rates	* *	* * =	0	

11. IMPORT DUTIES (10% of value in yuan)					
consumables eg fuel, food, films	10000 *	0.1	=	1000	£ 167
12. Costs for post, local food, etc		*	*	=	0 £ 0
13. AIR/RAIL TRAVEL IN CHINA		(Yuan/person/journey)			
Hong Kong -Beijing(+30% on 1Apr87)	810 *	8 *	1 =	6480	
Beijing -Lhasa (+30% on 1Apr87)	958 *	8 *	1 =	7664	£ 2357
14. PHOTOGRAPHING FEE		(Yuan)			
Peaks of 8000m- below 8500m	20000			20000	£ 3333
	Sub Total			84498	
15. CMA SERVICE FEE (5% of total expenditure in China)				4225	
	Sub Total:Renminbi	Y		88723	
16. TOTAL IN £ Sterling (Rate Y/£)	6			£ 14787	
Contingencies add 10%	10			£ 1479	
17. GRAND TOTAL IN £ Sterling				£ 16266	

FINAL EXPENDITURE-BRITISH XIXABANGMA EXPEDITION 1987  
IN COUNTRY COSTS:CHINA/TIBET xix2/2.dat

Ser (a)	Items of expenditure (b)	Rate (c)		
1.	DEPOSIT-Peak 8000m and above one year before entering China 6 months before entering China one month before entering China	(Yuan) 8000 10000 balance	paid Aug 84 paid May 87 paid Aug 87	
2.	REGISTRATION FEE (new rates from Jan 87) Peaks of 8000m and above plus per member over 20	5000 100 *	9	900
3.	"SUBSIDIES RATES" Liaison officer & interpreter Camp staff (driver) Yak Driver Porters (local govt "rescue party")	(Yuan/person/day) 37 * 22 * 16 *	2 * 61 = 1 * 48 = 1 * 32 =	4514 1056 512 2000
4.	FOOD/LODGING etc CHARGES Beijing 6-9 pax Chengdu (LO,Int on joining) Lhasa over 10 pax -addl cost for better hotel Lhasa LO & Int on joining Xigaze (LO,Int,dvr to join exped) Xigaze over 10 pax at end Xegar(LO,Int,Dvrs to join exped ) Xegar(members at end) Nyalam (CMA -aggregate) Nyalam(meals on arrival/departure) Nyalam (members at end)	(Yuan/person/day) 130 * 105 * 210 * 62.5 * 70 * 150 * 120 * 80 * 80 * 80 * 15 * 80 *	10 * 2 = 2 * 2 = 10 * 2 = 10 * 2 = 2 * 5 = 3 * 1 = 13 * 1 = 5 * 1 = 8 * 1 = 23 = 34 * 1 = 14 * 1 =	2600 420 4200 1250 700 450 1560 400 640 1840 510 1120
5.	FOOD EXPENSES IN THE MOUNTAINS LO/Interpreter Base Camp Staff(jeep driver) LA porter/yak driver (over 5000m)	(Yuan/person/day) 28 * 26 * 17 *	2 * 48 = 1 * 48 = 1 * 32 =	2688 1248 544
6.	TRANSPORT FEES (in Tibet) (1/2 rates apply for empty vehicles on return trips) 1st class jeep(5 seat)(from Lhasa) (from Nyalam to Zhangmu) 2jeeps(for exit of 8 men to Lhasa) Truck(2.5-3 tons)remains at Nyalam 2nd truck(from Lhasa to frontier)	(Yuan/km/journey) 2.5 * 2.5 * 2.5 * 4.8 * 4.8 *	880 * 1 = 50 * 3 = 850 * 3 = 2448 * 1 = 880 * 2 =	2200 313 6375 11750 6336
7.	FEES FOR HIRING PACK ANIMALS Horse/yak(paid rate for over 5000m) Journey fee,1days hire on joining	(Yuan/animal/day) 30 * 30 *	1 * 88 = * =	2640 0
8.	INSURANCE Death/injury,LO & CMA men Death/injury,porters & yak drivers Death/injury(TMA charged driver) Medical	(Sum assured/rate%/person) 25000 * 15000 * 15000 * 5000 *	0.006 * 3 = 0.006 * 5 = 0.006 * 1 = 0.01 * 8 =	450 450 90 400



9.	HIRE OF EQUIPMENT	(Yuan/person/expedition)		
	LO & other Chinese personnel	700 *	2 * 1 =	1400
	Driver	500 *	1 * 1 =	500
	Porters & yak drivers	200 *	5 * 1 =	1000
10.	HIRE OF BASE CAMP TENTS			
	local rates	*	* =	0
11.	IMPORT DUTIES (10% of value in yuan)			
	consumables eg fuel, food, films	10000 *	0.1 =	PAID
12.	LOCAL PURCHASE			
	Petrol(for cooking)	1.2 *	150 * 1 =	180
	Plastic cans			24
	Excess Baggage			1111
	Excess baggage(LO, Int on joining)			205
13.	AIR/RAIL TRAVEL IN CHINA	(Yuan/person/journey)		
	Hong Kong -Beijing	810 *	* =	0
	Lhasa-Beijing	958 *	8 * 1 =	7664
	Lhasa-Beijing (Chinese Rate)	409 *	2 * 1 =	818
	Beijing -Lhasa (Chinese Rate)	409 *	2 * 1 =	818
14.	PHOTOGRAPHING FEE	(Yuan)		
	Peaks of 8000m- below 8500m	20000		20000
		Sub Total		93874
15.	CMA SERVICE FEE (5% of total expenditure in China)			3648
	(para 3 to 13 incl)			
		Sub Total:Renminbi	Y	97522
16.	TOTAL IN £ Sterling (Rate Y/£)	6		£ 16254
	\$ US (Rate Y/\$)	3.7127		\$ 26267





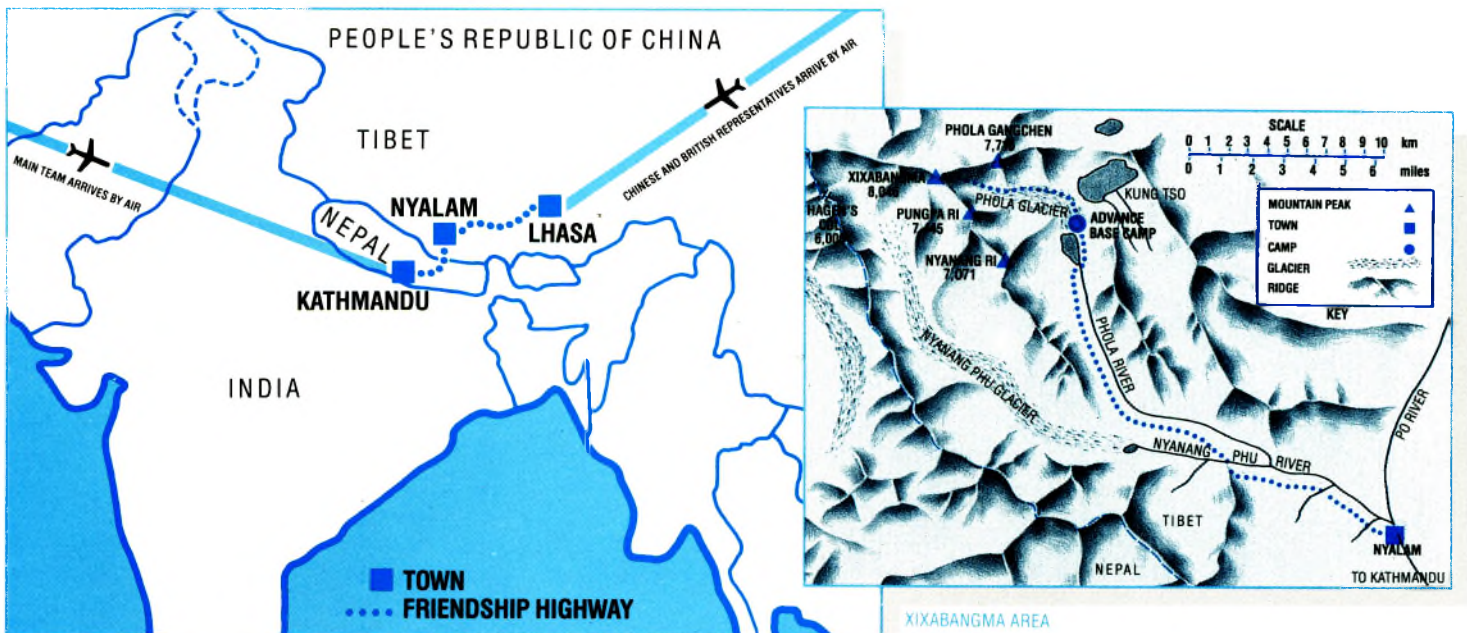
**THE XIXABANGMA EXPEDITION**  
**Jade Venture**

© *J. Burt*





# JADE VENTURE



A reconnaissance for the expedition was made in 1984, when an agreement was signed with the Chinese Mountaineering Association. Since then, extensive preparations have been made.

The expedition will leave at the end of the monsoon season, in September 1987 - a time when there is little or no snow below 5,000 metres. This will make work on the moraines easier for the scientists.

The members of the team will fly to Kathmandu and then drive along the Friendship Highway to the Nepalese/Tibetan border. En route, they will begin the training that will acclimatise them to high altitudes. At the border, Chinese hosts will join the team and escort them to the village of Nyalam (3,800 metres) on the Po River. From there, the expedition will march to the Advance Base Camp, near Kung Tso.

While acclimatisation continues, both aspirants and climbers will help with the scientific research. Those aspirants who perform well at high altitudes will be given a chance to join the main climb.

A testing ascent of an unclimbed mountain face . . . new and valuable scientific study . . . travel through some of the most isolated landscapes in the world . . . JADE VENTURE is an international event with something to excite almost anyone's imagination.

关 于  
英国曾利希曼邦马峰登山队  
议 定 书

根据 曾利 的申请，中国登山协会本着发展 中英 之间的登山交流，增进两国人民的友谊和相互了解的愿望，同意 曾利 登山队自费来华登山。

双方经过友好协商，议定如下事项：

一、登山队组织

- 1、名称：英国曾利希曼邦马峰登山队
- 2、总人数：23人
- 3、队长：利尤坦南特 克勇厄尔 MWH Day
- 4、国内对其事务负责的单位：曾利
- 5、驻北京代表：英使领馆 奥尔德里其士

• 1 •

哈  
运  
代  
国

- 杨格尔  
E 待定  
1至9月, 4人

法。 外国登山团体来华登山收取费用的办

四、中国登山协会指派 一人 担任联络官。需要

• 2 •

John Stanhope  
Colonel  
Deputy Chairman  
Operation Reliant  
27<sup>th</sup> August 1984

中国登山协会  
张俊岩

• 3 •



Luke Hughes and Stephen Venables on the north face of the Eiger.

About Xixabangma

Xixabangma means 'range above a grassy plain'. It is also marked on maps as Peak 23 or Gosainthan, its Hindu name. Despite its height of 8,046 metres (26,398 feet), it was until recently the most obscure of all the great peaks over 8,000 metres. It was not even photographed until 1950 - a distant shot of it was taken from an aircraft by Tony Hagen. The mountain was first climbed by the Chinese. On May 2, 1964, ten men under the leadership of Hsu Ching reached the summit at 8.20 am.

JADE VENTURE will climb the virgin east face of the peak. Although viewed from a distance, this face has not yet been explored. The approach to it crosses the difficult Phola glacier - which will be a subject of scientific study.



Tony Saunders (*left*) and Dr Henry Osmaston (*right*) carrying out research on a previous expedition. (Stephen Venables)



The Potala in Lhasa. (D V Nicholls)

**The expedition members**

- Lt Col Henry Day (*Leader*)
- Stephen Venables
- Lindsay Griffin
- Luke Hughes
- Caradoc Jones
- Mark Upton
- Jerry Gore
- Tony Saunders
- Rob Collister
- Brian Davison (*Field Researcher*)
- Captain Hamish Fulton (*Treasurer*)
- plus ten aspirants and ten scientists and support members
- Col John Blashford-Snell (*Council Chairman, SES*)
- Dr Henry Osmaston (*Research Co-ordinator*)
- Bankers:* The Bank of Scotland, 64 George St, Edinburgh



Tony Saunders (left) and Dr Henry Osmaston (right) carrying out research on a previous expedition. (Stephen Venables)



The Potala in Lhasa. (D V Nicholls)

#### The expedition members

Lt Col Henry Day (*Leader*)

Stephen Venables

Lindsay Griffin

Luke Hughes

Caradoc Jones

Mark Upton

Jerry Gore

Tony Saunders

Rob Collister

Brian Davison (*Field Researcher*)

Captain Hamish Fulton (*Treasurer*)

plus ten aspirants and ten scientists and support members

Col John Blashford-Snell (*Council Chairman, SES*)

Dr Henry Osmaston (*Research Co-ordinator*)

*Bankers:* The Bank of Scotland, 64 George St, Edinburgh