Kula Kangri, west ridge attempt. A French commercial expedition jointly led by Jean Annequin and Ludovic Challeat attempted the west ridge of Kula Kangri from its base. Previous parties (there have been three ascents: Japanese in 1986, Austrians in 1994, and Spanish in 1997) appear to have followed the 1986 Japanese first ascent route, which short cuts the initial steep lower section of the ridge by climbing up the northern flank. However, this is more prone to avalanche and exposed to serac fall. The first section of the ridge to a camp at 6,200m (the point where the Japanese reached the crest from the left flank in 1986) had already been opened by the 2004 Japanese expedition [mentioned above] and the French added a few more ropes to those placed by the Japanese. Five hundred meters of rope were fixed on this section, which had one 20m step up to 80°. On the 6th October they occupied Camp 3 at 7,000m but more bad weather produced significant snow fall and the team abandoned their attempt, making a difficult and dangerous descent through the fresh snow.

This was a large expedition, half the members being trekkers with little in the way of altitude experience. They had official permission from the CTMA to trek in the lower Kuru Chu (valley) but when they arrived the Chinese Army would not allow them to do this, so all members had to trek close to their base camp.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO, CLIMB magazine*

Kula Kangri, west ridge attempt. A three-man Danish team led by Claus Olsen also attempted the West Ridge at the same time as the French and Japanese. They gave up at around 6,500m.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO, CLIMB magazine*

Monda Kangri (6,426m), attempt. Monda Kargri is located at 28.2°N and 90.6°E, 145km south of Lhasa. It is an isolated massif a little to the north of the mighty Ghula (Kula) Kangri, a 7,538m massif soaring to the west of Lake Phulma (Puma Yum Tso) in the Bhutan Himalaya. The Monda Kangri massif is independent from Ghula Kangri and has four peaks exceeding 6,000m. We have temporarily called these East Peak, West Peak, South Peak, and North Peak. The highest one is East Peak, 6,425m according to the 1:100,000 topographical map that we obtained from the Tibet Mountaineering Association. A photograph in *Immortal Mountains in the Snow Region* compiled by the China Mountaineering Association is not of the highest peak, but that of the North Peak (6,221m). No one, even the local nomads, knew the origin of the name Monda Kangri.

The approach to Monda Kangri is very easy. One can reach BC on the eastern bank of Puma Yum Tso in a one-day drive from Lhasa. Nevertheless, only one party had challenged the mountain before, that being the Montagne Alpine Club of Japan, which attempted the west face in July-August 1992. They set up BC at Monda La (5,266m) and climbed a very difficult rock face and ridge until ca 6,000m. Knowing that it has remained unclimbed, the alpine club in Sendai City of the northeastern region of Japan sent an expedition to Monda Kangri in June in commemoration of their 60th anniversary.

Our intended route ascended the west glacier to a col between the South Peak (6,250m) and the West Peak (6,291m). The ridge from the col leads to the summit of the highest peak in one kilometer. No reconnaissance of the east face of the main peak was allowed because the eastern side of the mountain is not open to foreigners.