The machine is set at 7.1.25 m. We go back to X5 and start digging in the "booths" in the SE corner. There is only pure earth, no sherds, and no built sides. Likely, the liquids drained from X6 on an earth surface rather than a pit. We reach level 4.40 m and stop. A 1/4 of earth has been collected for water sieving. We also stop excavation in the rest of the room and pail 24 comes to an end.

Photography is now done in X4 (see p. 62). We also decide to make the sounding deeper in X1, in its east section and up to the end of the south wall.

86B
- Pail 7: 29, under pail 18+19, X1
  From 4.81 m to 4.74 W/4.70 E
  Brown earth and some small stones,
  Sherds: 185 sh; 1900 kg; MMIB
  mostly MMIB
  Other: bones

Inv

We find what looks like a grey lepis surface that slopes down toward the east defined on the east by wall 2 and on the west by rather jambly a segment of wall 1, preserved for 1.50 m from where it corners with wall 2.

The next sounding is under the floor and for only 1.50 m W-E starting at the junction of the two walls.
86 B/ Pail 10:30 under pail 9:29 X I
From 4.74 N/4.70 E to 4.525 m
Clay like earth and small stone, sandy sherds; 321 sh, 2.635 kg. MM II
badly broken up unit
O: Bones, shells
In:

The west limit of the pail is shown on p.60. Wall 1 bottom out just under
the top of Pail 30. Wall 2 continue down. There are polychrome and sherds.

We reach the bottom of Wall 2
(3 courses, 37 cm h) and stop Pail 30
we continue in the same area.

86 B/ Pail 11:31 under Pail 30 X I
From 4.525 m to 4.425 m
Brown earth, small sherds
Sherds: 137 sh, 1.75 kg: MM II
most cc hand made
O: Sherd containing plaster
In:

Some conservation tasks are also being
carried out. In Staircase 13, we
dug west of the highest preserved step which
is oblique, its back edge still in fill.
It turns out to be wider than the rest
of the steps (30 cm). We set it horizontal
and elevate it somewhat by putting small
slabs underneath (as the other slabs are built).
We build up the area of the landing
to its west (50 cm W-E) with each
and slabs to make the use of the staircase
safe for visitors using it. We also backfill
the narrow trench excavated
along the west facade (Tr. 81A).
A machine is set at level + 8.035 m. excavation continues in X1 with pail 31. The place has become very narrow now and we shall soon have to stop.

We stop when the fill gets harder in X1. We shall carry out a small investigation. We shall excavate the fill of the landing at the bottom of Staircase 13. We are trying to see if there is a lower step.

Photos are taken of X1 at end of excavation (see p. 64).

Shards from the staircase go into:
86 B
Pail 7:32
Investigation of landing of Staircase 13
Sheds: 1.5 kg; 0.083 kg, undatable
Other: pl. - plaster

A plan before pail 32 is shown on p. 64. The N upright and the east fest slab are removed (to be restored in place later) and in order to check whether there was an earlier phase of the staircase. A photo is taken (p. 65). Removal of blocks and #2 (see p. 64) shows that both #2 and #3 (the block right to the west of #2) had similarly shaped rectangular blocks underneath. As none of the other steps of the staircase had any slabs under them, block #3 is likely to be part of a landing (as it was in the last phase of use) rather a step that was incorporated in a landing. The cut doorjamb bases visible in the photo in the foreground represent the earliest floor of that room. Though the situation needs to be thought more about, it drops as if staircase 13 was not built then.
we move now to Trench 86D in Gallery 3 where good Nixon has been digging with Trench 89A. A photo is taken of the area to be excavated. There is a mass of fallen stones from Building P left unexcavated after Trench 83C. To its east an area ca. 4.30m revealed a plaster floor (Trench 83C: pail 2). The large, apparently MM N-S wall immediately east was excavated in Trench 89A (the top of the wall exposed in pail 30).

We shall start by digging the plastered area where the plaster is fully preserved. It is the rectangular area of which the south limit is indicated by... on the photo (p. 66 bottom). It is 1.03m W-E at the N line, 0.88m at the south line, 1.48m N-S. Between this rectangle and the "MM" wall there is a line of small stones. This strip will remain outside our sounding in case the stones were inserted later. Indeed, no plaster floor was found over the "MM" wall. Over this wall two neatly built courses of a wall proceeded the wall of P appear. In the area of the sounding only one course of this wall appears and the plaster floor runs up against it.

**86D/ East Sounding**

**Pail 8:33 under Tr 83C/pail 2 from +3.24 N/3.22 S to ca. 3.10m**

Plaster floor + fill under it

Sherd: 21 sh. 6.150 kg. LMIA-LMIB

Other: clay inclusion in plaster floor, bronze strips, pattern painted plaster

In W. P(85): sponge pattern
We started near the N wall. We note two layers of black, painted plaster at that end. The top one is ca. 5-6 to 8 mm thick. Samples are collected. The same turns out to be the thickness of the second one. The layering disappears as we move away from the wall. A third layer, that in white, is found. The lack of layering away from the wall can be explained in terms of use and wear, where the surface was used. A photo and slide are taken (see p. 68).

We shall now take the plaster out and reveal the surface on which it was laid out.

These are occasional bits and tiny fragments of unbaked clay, also a bit of bronze strip turns up (the latter perhaps from the use of the fleeces, as other strips have been found in Gallery 3 at heat level).

The bottom layer of plaster turns out to be the thickest. It clears off a raised level of burnt earth. It rise above us up to 3 cm in place. In its make-up run are clay bits and even two pieces of fresco: black, scale-like patterns on a black-blue ground — and the most delicate brushwork. We also find that here is an irregular area along the east wall where little pebbles were thrown in with the plaster. As the blue layer was laid above the chalicescapes it seems that the latter pavement may be still part of the original floor. We dig out the plaster and down to the "surface" but we leave a masonry at the NW corner both for photography and for the cross-section to be drawn by the architect, Giuliana Bianco, who has just arrived.
Plaster floor - three layers visible
From south. Roll 3, Fr. 15
Also color

The surface is at +3.16 m some 90 cm from the N. wall and 3.17 m at the south end of the sounding.
Another piece of plaster patterns plaster & found. Levels at +3.17 and +3.18 m. The area with the pebbles slops down from 3.24 to 3.23 (N-S) that is the same as the plaster floor. J.W. Shaw took pictures (see p. 70) and G. Bianco will make a drawing and a section of the layers of plaster, as exposed.

While she does this, we mark an area, west of the stone turtle where the plaster is fairly well preserved (1.35 x 1.35 m). We shall make another sounding there.

86D/ West sounding:
Pail 8: 34 under Tr 89A pails 8+9
From +3.24 N/3.22 S to see p. 70
Plaster floor sounding; plaster
Sherd: 13 sh; 0.110 kg. LMIA late 1 B

Other: painted plaster; bronze strip; frag. of Ino. P 185: sponge pattern

The plaster here is only one layer and worn at the top. It clear off a flatish surface which also has a bit of sound here and there. A strip of bronze is found. Also a bit of painted plaster like what was found in the east sounding. The bedding under the plaster is extremely hard, grey clay in which bits of wall plaster were thrown. It clear off the same surface as noted above, only a few sherds have been found. We take levels of this surface see plan p. 70
we change pail.
8CD / west sounding:
Pail 8:35 under pail 34
Earth + sand (layer)
From (see p. 70) to ca. 3.10 m
Sherd: 31 sh; 0.210 kg. LM III = latest dateable
shed - rest MH III, LMI?
Other
Inc.

Once again we find sand, now under a
less packed earth layer. Thus the sequence
in plaster, a mixture of co-pact earth and
very hard grey layer over pail
layer of sand, then earth & sand again.

We had left a 20 cm ship along
side the north wall of P in the
west sounding to avoid contamination
in case there was a foundation trench
for that wall. We have assigned to it:
8CD / west sounding:
Pail 8:34A under Tr 89A/pail 8:8
from +3.25 m to (see p. 74) Gallery 3
Sherds: 13 sh; 0.110 kg. LMI

One: un-fired clay piece, shells, painted
plaster
Inc.
Machine set at level + 6.40m/July 7

We continue in Trench 86D with pail 35. We have left the strip of pail 34A untouched so far, but we are now well under the plaster floor and we note that the exposed scarp of the strip displays exactly the stratigraphy of soils encountered in the rest of the sounding. We excavate the strip (some 20 cm high) and find that the soils are as compacted as to the south. There is no sign that a wall was pulled out. Quite possibly the plaster lip we had been uncovering south of the P wall came up to some kind of superficial position wall, rather than a wall that penetrated further down. A level ca. 3.10 m we arbitrarily discontinued both pails 35 and 34A.

In the southeast corner of pail 35 there is a dip in the hard packing and this is filled with sand (level reached in the dip + 3.03 m). The bases of two blocks of P have been revealed (see p. 74 for levels).

We now come back to the east sounding and continue the removal of the plaster floor (continuing with pail 33). Here we may get some insights as to relationships between the plaster floor and the pre-P wall. As noted earlier, there is an irregular area where pebbles were found in a thickish concentration within the plaster. In a central spot in this area it was found to go under the blue layer of the plaster floor.

We remove the area with the pebbles and find small pieces of plaster, painted with the scale pattern. Several small pieces are retrieved by the brilliant workmen, Miek's assistants, using gauze and...
paraboloid. Some are face down and it is a miracle that he can distinguish them as he removes the plaster layer.

6. The plaster floor. Under the layers described starts one mostly of sand (as in the west sounding). Chunks of grey clay (kouskousa) are found and small stones appear in the northern half of the area. At the base of the north wall (+ 3.10 m) we terminate Pit 33. It is clear that the plaster floor is the only one associated with this wall. We shall now excavate the 20 cm strip along the east side of the sounding and the NW MM wall.

86 D/ East Sounding
Pail 8:36 (= 8:33) East ship of East sounding
From c. 3.24m to +3.10m
Brown earth, some sand, kouskousa, lits shed, 6 sk., 155 kg. MM4; tiny unit, small sherd.
Other: bronze strips, Inv.

The small stones taken as being a built position in a N-S line have been drawn by G. Bianco in a 1:20m plan and are removed with this pail. It should be noted that they are small and rough, never flat at the top. The partitions could not have risen any higher. Bits of bronze strips, piece of painted pattern (too destroyed), piece of clay occur.

The painted plaster clearly belongs to a building which is earlier than the early wall which associates with the LMI Building T. Perhaps it belongs to the thick NW MM wall running N-S east of the sounding.
78

The Machine is set at level + 6.43m. We start a new pail in the east sounding.

**86D / East sounding**

Pail 8: 37 under pail 33 and 36

Gallery 3. E. sounding

From +3.10 m to ca. 2.85 m

Sand, small stones, grey lepis frags.

Sherds: 113 sh; 0.795 kg. MM

Other: bronze strip, knotted.

Inu.

We have now reached the next course of the MM wall after digging a couple of passes with pail 37. The sounding is small but we would like to learn if the floor of the MM wall is deeper down. If the floor is much lower, we shall probably have to discontinue and move to a larger area.

As yesterday, more bronze strips are found, now tied in a knot. There is rubble and much lepis (we worry we may have reached bedrock but the wall still goes down). After the 3rd course we change pail.

**86D / East sounding**

Pail 9: 38 under pail 37

From ca. +2.85 m to +1.80 m

Sand, clay chucks, earth, small sherds.

Sherds: 176 sh; 1.830 kg. MM

Other:

Inu.

The fill continues as above but with more sand and sherds. Some 8-9’ course have been exposed. A very solidly built wall.
The machine is set at level +
we continue with Trench 38 till we get to a
level where each may start

**86D / East Sounding**

Pail 9: 39 under Pail 38
Earth, sand, sherds
From +1.90m to +1.78 (see p. 80)
Sherds: 42 sh; 0.750 kg. MM II

Oke —
Ino.

It is puzzling that such a well built wall
may not have been meant to be visible,
to judge from the fill removed, which looks
like a levelling dump.

A workman from Trench 90A is
moved to this trench and with my
workman Nikes I go to Trench 90D
where he and I will excavate a
small area of fill sloping down from
the wide LM I wall found at the
under the gallery of P's south
wall (gallery #6). The
report will go into NB 90 and
the trench will be 90A. Dale
Walsh is the trench master.

**In Trench 86D a big surprise**
At level +1.78v- we
find what looks like a slab
floor. We are now cleaning
to see the pattern of the slabs.
Many of them have a yellowish
hue. They are fairly flat, but
with no orderly or co-ordinated
arrangement, so that it is quite
possible that they are part of levelling
rather than a floor made to be used.
Though solid and well built, the MM wall
may have functioned only as a retaining wall.
Roll 3, Frs. 23-24

East Sounding in Gallery 3 from E and S

Roll 3, Frs. 25-26

East Sounding from E
1: wall of P; 2: wall of T

86D / East Sounding
Pail 9:40 under pail 39
East Sounding in Gallery 3
From 41.78 m to ca. 1.50 m (water)
Sherds: 9 sh.; 0.315 kg MMIB/II
Tiny unit

Trench 86D

July 12

The machine is set at level + 5.99 m. The sounding in Gallery 3 is cleaned and prepared for photography (p. 82). In the meantime I am continuing the supervision of the small area next to the south wall of T (see description in Trench 90A). Work ends here when some rough level with several pebbles and sure flat slabs is found (at level + 2.84 m).

We shift back to Gallery 3. After photographing the east sounding we remove some of the slabs at P's bottom. There is grey clay, some oblique slabs also appear continuously under the wall. It is very muddy as water level will soon be reached. A couple of sherds turn up, so we assign a pail.

A new sounding is planned in search of possible MM buildings. It will be located in the NE corner of the gallery. The sand placed over this area to cover the plaster floor located last year (Tr. 83A) and any eroded material is being removed. A plan with levels appears on p. 82. The plaster rises some 18 cm. above the floor forming a vertical face. Thus wall revetment and floor plaster are continuous. The new sounding is 4.45 m W-E and 2.25 m N-S, most of the area was excavated down to the plaster floor which varies in
TRENCH 86D

preservation, petering out towards the west. There is a small area along the south scarp where excavation stopped at a somewhat higher level.

A new machine level is used: +6.89 m

We stop excavation (pail 40) in the east sounding and shift to the NE corner, what we shall call the "easternmost sounding". We shall take the level down in the rectangular area where excavation stopped higher. The level had stopped where reddish earth, no burning appeared.

86D/ Eastmost Sounding:

Pail 7: 41 under Trench 83A (3:46A) from +3.45 m to +3.37 m

Burnt, reddish soil - Eastmost sounding sherd s: 25 sh. 0.035 kg. M M (II?)

Tiny unit.

Other: "bit of rock crystal? burnt soil sample"

No.

There are alternating orange and dark layers. A sample is collected for water sieving. Next we find a stratum of t. c. red clay which was encountered (and removed) in Trench 83A (pail 3:46A). We are finding the east extension. From the west scarp of pail 41 we can see that the clay layer is ca. 2 cm at most in thickness. Its surface is exposed. It is a small area, ca. 0.75 x 0.70. The level at the top is at +3.37 m. It seems to be sitting practically on the plaster floor. We remove it, keeping a sample. Removal shows the layer to have been laid out on a rough earth level which seems to be just above the plaster floor.

We assign a new pail to this last
TRENCH 86D
EASTMOST SOUNDING

Pail 7:43 under pail 41 and 83A/54
From (p. 86) [Eastmost sounding]
Brown earth fill over plaster. Gall 3
Sherds: 15 sh; 0.305 kg. LM II M MA
Possible line with pail 41
Other: red substance? haematoite layer single
Ino. burnt fill

We have now traced the plaster floor as preserved. As noted earlier, it is preserved along the east facade wall but for only a narrow strip (5-10 cm. wide). It is destroyed beyond this strip and up to a N-S line some 70 cm from the vertical face of the plaster. Beyond this destroyed area, the plaster is preserved fairly well and some times in several superposed layers, which are quite thin. There are blue painted and plain white layers. The plaster peters out again toward the west roughly along the N-S scarp of the area excavated with pail 41.

We shall dig the west area first (3.03 m W-E)

- 86D/EASTMOST SOUNDING

Pail 7:43 under part of pail 41 and
Trench 83A/54 [Eastmost sounding]
Plaster and gray lepis, breccia [see locat. p. 86]
From (p. 86) to +3.13 m

Sherds: 323 sh; 2.560 kg. MM III or LM I
Badly broken + worn sherd
Other: bone, shell
Inv. 9796: 60 m weight
TRENCH B6D

July 13

The machine is set at level + 6.73 m.

Pail 43 continues. A workman is assigned
the N-S strip of some 70 cm wide alongside
The area to be excavated is shown on p. 86
(east of A-B).

86D / Eastmost Sounding
Pail 7.44 under pail 42 and 83A/54
From ca. 3.45 m to (east strip of eastmost
sounding) to +3.41/3.35 m.
Brown earth, small stones, bits of plaster
Sherd: 13 sh; 0.120 kg  MM III
Tiny unit of small sherd
Omer
Ino.

The fill here is different from that of pail 43.
Perhaps the plaster was dug out here while
in pail 43 it was just worn with time.
There are now quite a few stones - perhaps we
are cutting the top of another MM wall.

The west face of the plaster against the
east wall is now exposed. The top layer is
1.5 cm and is white. It meets at right
angles with the wall revetment (without a
seam between vertical + horizontal). The
second layer has a blue surface is also about
1.5 cm thick. Under it starts a thicker layer
of plaster (5 cm +) thick full of pebbles.
The vertical plaster is best preserved
at the NE corner, rising some 19 cm above
the floor. Along the north wall of T
The top white layer has disappeared and
only the blue layer and the chalk remains.
underneath remain. We terminate pail
44 once we clean the earth around the
stones. The average top of the small stones
is at +3.41 m, the earth around +3.35 m.

The workmen who excavated pail 44 will now