



Fig. 1d. Venera 15/16 image of eastern Laima Tessera showing the texture of the trough-and-ridge tessera and the location of the enlargements, sketch maps, and topographic profile shown in Figure 2. Kamari Dorsa, right side of image.

The lengths of the valleys and ridges in the corrugated terrain are thus generally comparable to the separation distances between the WNW oriented troughs/fractures. These distances are commonly in the range 20 to 100 km and are much shorter than the WNW oriented troughs/fractures. The separation distances of the hills range from about 6 to 12 km, averaging about 8-10 km, in general agreement with the average 8 km crest-to-crest distance found for Laima Tessera by *Ivanov* [1988].

Although Laima Tessera itself is surrounded by plains interpreted to be of volcanic origin [*Basilevsky et al.*, 1986], the tessera terrain does not appear to display evidence of abundant volcanic centers except for the smooth flat floors of the trough/fracture zones, and the beaded areas or ovals within these zones (Figure 1). A few elongate dome-like features, having dimensions of 40 km x 70 km, are oriented parallel to the fabric of the corrugated terrain and are of possible volcanic origin (Figure 2a). Smaller dome-like hills (<20 km diameter)

interpreted to be of volcanic origin are noted adjacent to the tessera and are sometimes associated with smooth plains in the tessera in general [*Slyuta et al.*, 1988; *Aubele*, 1989]. The abundance of domes within the tessera itself, however, cannot be easily determined because of the extremely rough topography comprising the corrugated terrain (Figure 2).

In summary, the trough and ridge type of tessera in Laima Tessera is characterized by a distinctive pattern of throughgoing troughs/lineaments, and orthogonally oriented ridges and valleys comprising the corrugated terrain (Figure 2). We now proceed to examine the basic characteristics of the terrestrial seafloor in order to compare and contrast the characteristics.

### 3. NATURE OF THE SEAFLOOR FORMED AT SPREADING CENTERS

The terrestrial seafloor possesses three major landforms in areas of oceanic ridges: (1) the linear rise crest at the spreading