

Anye Maqin IX. On September 5, Martin Hampar, Michael and Catherine Pettipher, Ben Williams and I established Base Camp at 4200 meters in the main valley about a quarter mile beyond the large stream descending from the east face of Anye Maqin I. On the 7th, we placed Camp I at 4800 meters on the highest end of the north moraine of the Harlon II Glacier. Our attempt to find a route up the right bay, recommended by the Chinese, was halted by a series of complex icefalls. A reconnaissance of the Japanese route of 1981 via a spur between the two bays revealed why they had fixed 1000 feet of rope. Having neither the resources nor the time for this, we switched our attention to the relatively straightforward unclimbed summit of Anye Maqin III (6090 meters). Williams and I reached 5200 meters on the east ridge before running out of steam. On September 18, Williams and Mike Pettipher established a camp at 4700 meters on the east side of the northern glacier of Anye Maqin IX, the prominent southern outlier of the range clearly seen from Snow Mountain Commune. On September 20, after having been turned back the previous day by snow squalls, they made the first ascent of this peak (5690 meters, 18,668 feet) by the northern glacier and the col on its west side. Like the Australians in 1981, we deplore the environmental damage left by the 1981 Japanese Joetsu expedition.

JOHN TOWER, *Alpine Club*

Tibet

Everest, Hornbein Couloir, Winter Attempt, 1985-6. An expedition to Mount Everest in the winter of 1985-6 was not reported in the *A.A.J.* Under the leadership of Mrs. Michiko Takahashi, Japanese attempted to climb the mountain via the Hornbein Couloir. Despite a good team of Sherpas led by Sirdar Lhakpa Tenzing, fierce wind and cold drove them back. On December 15, 1985, two members got to the head of the couloir at 8450 meters before having to retreat.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Everest Attempt via the Great Couloir. Our expedition was composed of Jack Allsup, leader, Ann Smith, Bob East, Bob Allison, George Dunn, Greg Wilson, Craig Van Hoy, Ed Viesturs, Bonnie Nobori, Dr. John Baumeister, Travis Cannon and me as climbing leader. Four went via Beijing and Lhasa. The rest traveled via Kathmandu, where we were joined by five Nepalese Sherpas and a cook. We met at Xigare, Tibet, and reached the Rongbuk Base Camp at 16,800 feet on March 17. Very good weather prevailed for the next few weeks. Advance Base was established on the Central Rongbuk Glacier at 18,300 feet on March 23. Yaks carried 90 loads there in nine days. At this point Allison and Dr. Baumeister became ill and returned to the United States. The remaining Americans and the Sherpas made rapid progress, establishing Camp I at 20,400 feet at the base of the north face on March 26 and Camp II

at 22,000 feet at the foot of the technical climbing on March 31. Instead of a direct approach up the face, we continued eastward between the flanks of Changtse and the north face to 23,000 feet. On April 17 Camp III was placed at 25,000 feet at the bottom of the Great Couloir. Storms, high winds and illness prevented Camp IV from being established at 26,800 feet until May 14. Between Camps II and IV we fixed 9500 feet of rope because of icy spring conditions. Camp IV was stocked for four summit attempts. On May 17 Dunn and Wilson made the first try, using oxygen, but were slowed by difficult rock in the Yellow Band, where they fixed 500 feet of rope. While descending from their high point of 27,500 feet, Wilson fell 40 feet when his rappel piton pulled out but was held by Dunn. On May 21 Viesturs and I ascended rapidly through the Yellow Band on the previous team's rope and then fixed 500 more feet in the Grey Band above on 50° to 60° ice and mixed ground. We climbed straight out of the top of the Great Couloir rather than traversing right above the Yellow Band, the route followed by the Australians and Ershler in the post-monsoon period of 1984, when there was more snow. Upon reaching the final summit snowfield, we traversed to the west ridge. Using oxygen, I reached 28,700 feet stopping below a steep rock step. Without a rope and unsure of getting down without a rappel, I turned back. Viesturs, who was climbing without oxygen, descended with me from 28,600 feet. That same day, a Swede, who had traversed across from the northeast ridge, turned back below the Grey Band, and Roger Marshall fell to his death from the Japanese Couloir during his solo attempt. The third summit attempt was to take place on May 27, but after spending the night at Camp IV, they did not leave because Dunn was not feeling well. A fourth attempt on May 29 by Allsup, Smith and Sherpas Nuru and Pasang Tsering failed to get higher than 25,500 feet.

ERIC SIMONSON

Swedish Everest Attempt. We are still waiting for details about a large Swedish expedition led by Ebbe Wahlund that attempted the North-Col route on Everest. They established Camp IV on the North Col late in April and Camp V at 7500 meters. We do have a few details about their summit attempt. On May 20, Lasse Cronlund and Daniel Bindner crossed to the Great Couloir to establish Camp VI at 8000 meters. That night Bindner did not feel well and descended the next morning, May 21. Cronlund set out at 4:30 and after passing through the American camp, caught up with Ed Viesturs and Eric Simonson on the Yellow Band. Cronlund led much of this. Above was a snowfield where the Americans had left a fixed rope on a previous attempt. All three climbed separately. Simonson and Cronlund were climbing with oxygen, but Cronlund used up his supply at about 8650 meters. He felt he would not be strong enough to continue on without it and still be able to descend. For that reason he turned back. What the Americans did is covered in their report.

Everest Attempt. Josema Casimiro and I shared the route on the north side of Everest with a large Swedish expedition. We followed the classic route on

the East Rongbuk Glacier and on May 20 climbed to the North Col some 300 meters to the left of the usual route among seracs, where we found fixed ropes. From a bivouac at 6990 meters just below the col, we followed the north ridge to 7500 meters to a point 100 meters below the usual Camp V on May 21. From there we traversed diagonally on a strip of snow to the Great Couloir at 8100 meters. Despite theoretical protection we should have had from the sides of the couloir, the violent wind raked us for two nights and a day as we waited in vain for an improvement in the weather. On May 24, we gave up the attempt because of the wind and descended.

MARI ABREGO, *Orhi Mendi, Federación Vasca de Montaña, Spain*

Everest Tragedy. On June 19 Roger Marshall set out with the hope of making a solo ascent of Mount Everest via the Japanese and Hornbein Couloirs. He made good progress and, at the end of the second day, he was at the foot of the Hornbein Couloir. However something must have been amiss since he was observed by his friend Ruth DeCew to begin on the morning of June 21 to descend. On very hard ice in the Japanese Couloir he slipped and fell to his death. Marshall was born in 1942 in England and moved to Canada in 1967. During the past few years he had lived in Boulder, Colorado. In 1984 he soloed Kangchenjunga. It had been his ambition to solo the five highest mountains of the world.

Everest, Hornbein Couloir from the North Face Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Luis Fraga, Luis Bárcenas, Juan Agustín Casillas, Iñigo Mauleon, Pedro Holst, Bicen Itxaso, Cristóbal Salas, Fernando Garrido and me, all from different regions of Spain. We were also joined in part by Frenchman Pierre Beghin. We crossed from Nepal to Tibet by way of Kodari on June 20. We established Base Camp on July 5 at 5150 meters, somewhat higher than usual. On July 8, we put Advance Base at 5500 meters in the splendid place the Australians had used. On July 14, Camp I was set up at the foot of the north face on a great plateau at 6050 meters. The weather turned bad for a long time and left the face in bad condition, but on August 6, we placed Camp II at 6900 meters. We used a route this far which was to the right of the Japanese route and to the left of the one used by Loretan and Troillet; we feel that this was safer from avalanches than the Japanese. Camp III was established on August 9 at 7350 meters on a rocky spur. Beyond Camp II we were also on new ground until we reached the Hornbein Couloir to the left of the route used by the Japanese and by the Swiss Loretan and Troillet. On August 25 Fraga and I made the first summit attempt from Camp IV at 7900 meters, but we were driven back by the weather from 8000 meters in the Hornbein Couloir. Our retreat was problematical in the deep snow that fell. On August 27, a second summit try failed due to Sherpa misunderstanding and bad weather. On September 2, Bárcenas, Fraga, Garrido and Beghin set up two

small tents at 8200 meters and on September 3, Garrido and Beghin got to 8700 meters. They had to deviate to the right to emerge on the upper part of the west ridge, but the deep snow turned them back. Without a bivouac, they could not have reached the top.

ANTONIO RAMOS VILLAR, *Tenerife, Spain*

Everest Attempt. Between August 13 and 17 our team arrived at the Rongbuk Base Camp at 17,000 feet, hoping to climb the traditional East Rongbuk-North Col route. Base Camp had the appearance of an international camp with teams from Australia, Britain, Ireland, Japan and Spain also in residence. Our expedition consisted of Americans Paul Briggs, Michael Flynn, Dr. Brack Hattler, Peter Jamieson, Steve Matous, Dr. Tom McCullough, Dave Nettle, Greg Sapp, Steven Strain, Base-Camp Manager Rod Willard, Canadian Geoff Creighton, Sherpas Ang Rita and Chuldim Dorje and me as leader. For two weeks we stocked Camp I at 19,500 feet on the East Rongbuk Glacier and Advance Base at 21,300 feet with the help of 21 yaks. By August 29, Advance Base was completely stocked. Camp III was established on the North Col at 23,000 feet on September 3. We fixed 2500 feet of 8mm rope below the col, the only section that was fixed. The weather was still excellent and we talked of the summit in two weeks. The next three weeks saw intermittent periods of heavy snowfall, making the route to the North Col extremely dangerous; there were high winds. Greg Sapp was hit by an avalanche while ascending the fixed ropes but fortunately escaped with only bruised ribs and a torn climbing harness. Camp IV was finally established at 25,500 feet on September 23. For several weeks winds frequently over 100 mph slowed progress and hampered efforts to stock this camp. Camp IV, including five bottles of oxygen, was blown away. On October 9, Camp IV was reestablished by Flynn, Ang Rita, Sapp and me. We dug a snow cave instead of setting up tents. On October 12, Camp V at 26,500 feet was established by Strain, Ang Rita and Jamieson. The latter was forced to descend because bitter cold was causing his feet, frostbitten in 1983 on Everest, considerable pain. Strain spent the night alone at Camp V and left for the summit at five A.M. Using oxygen and climbing in high winds and -40° temperatures, he reached the First Step after seven hours. The winds increased and he was blown off his feet three times. Since the wind did not let up, he had to descend. No further attempts were made due to wind, exhaustion, illness and Tibet's worst snowstorm in 40 years that from October 19 to 21 left four feet of snow at Advance Base.

STEVE VAN METER

Everest, North Face Attempt. Our team was composed of five women: Stacy Allison, Evelyn Lees, Liz Nichols, Melly Reuling and Mimi Stone*, and ten men: Q. Belk, Dr. David Black, Peter Goldman, Michael Graber, Wes

* All five received Vera Watson-Alison Chadwick Onyszkiewicz Memorial Fund Grants.

Krause, Bob McConnell, George Schunk, Ben Toland, Rick Wyatt and me as leader. On August 6, after struggling against landslides and flooding rivers, we arrived at Base Camp at 17,000 feet on the remote Tibetan side of Mount Everest and were ready to attempt the Australian route on the north face. Well in advance of the post-monsoon period, we intended to stock four camps by October. Supplies were carried to Advance Base at 18,400 feet with the help of yaks. In continuing beautiful weather, we established Camp I at 19,200 feet on the Rongbuk Glacier by August 17. The climbing between Camps I and II was the steepest on the route. We ascended on a snow-and-ice spur, often at night, to avoid avalanches and ice and rockfall. The crux was a nearly vertical rock pitch. Camp II was a well-stocked snow cave. From there we intended to launch our summit assault. Camp III at 25,000 feet was also a snow cave, dug into what the Australians called White Limbo, an ominous snowfield which stretches across the entire north face. Camp IV, at 26,600 feet in the Great Couloir, was stocked with tent, stove, fuel and oxygen. After two months, the weather changed from summer to what soon would be winter. Michael Graber and Mimi Stone made the first summit attempt on October 15. They were turned back at 28,000 feet by strong wind. Mimi now holds the American women's altitude record. A second summit-attempt team consisted of Wesley Krause, Q. Belk, Stacy Allison and me. A fierce blizzard hit us on October 20 when we were climbing White Limbo. We were forced to retreat to Camp II for three days. When the snowstorm ended, we climbed to Camp III and spent three more days waiting for the wind to abate. The storm complicated our descent off the mountain and delayed our departure from Everest by two weeks.

SCOTT FISCHER

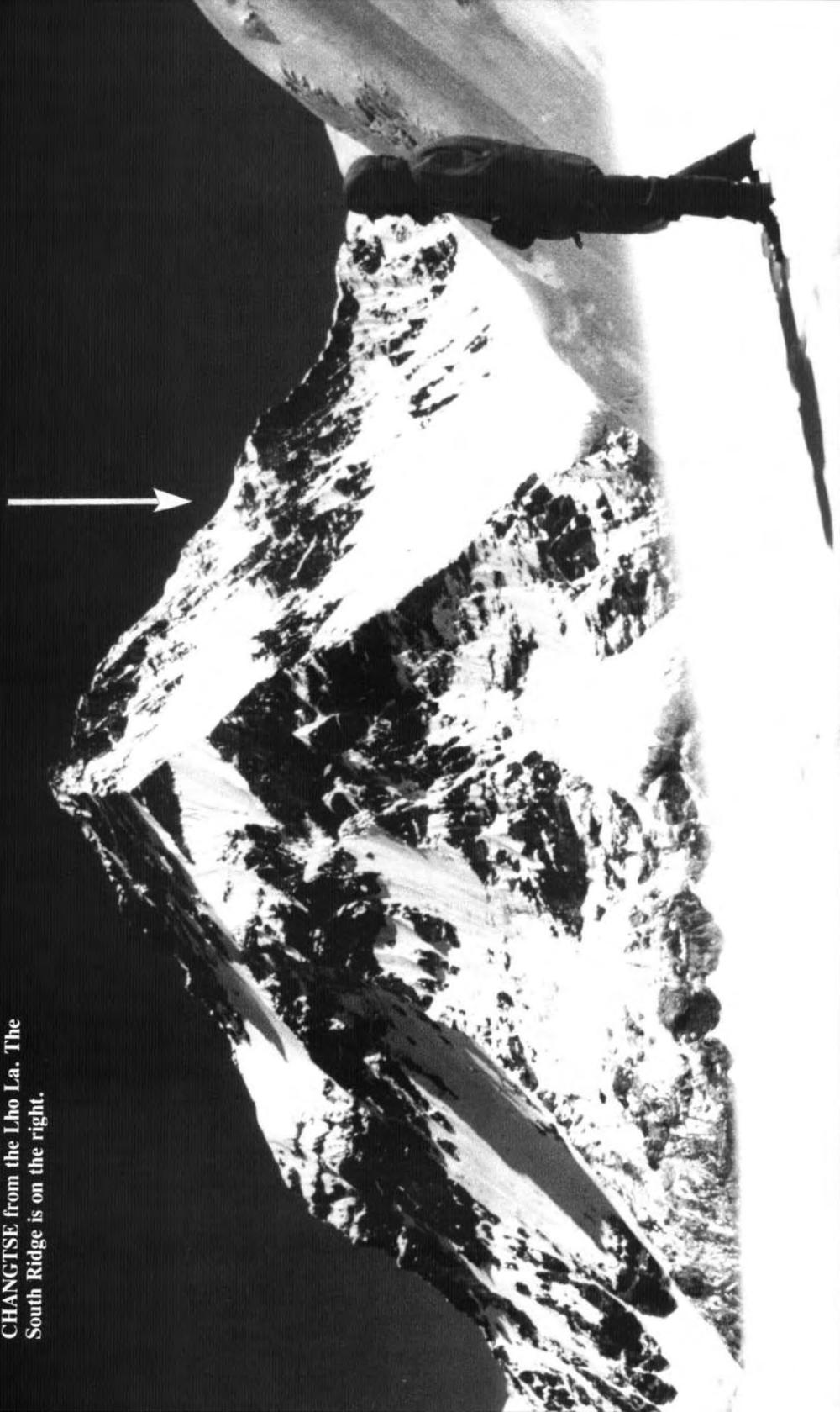
Everest Northeast Ridge Attempt. Our expedition arrived at Base Camp at 5000 meters on September 3. We were British climbers Doug Scott and Rick Allen, co-leaders, Nick Kekus, Michael Scott, and I, Austrian Robert Schauer, American Steve Sustad and Sharu Prabhu, who was the first Indian mountaineer to represent her country in China. Our route was the unclimbed northeast ridge and we were attempting it without oxygen and in lightweight style. We established snow caves at 7090 and 8000 meters. Doug Scott, Allen, Schauer, Kekus and I set out from Advance Base to try for the summit in very windy conditions. I turned back that same day, convinced that good weather was not to come. Kekus and Schauer retreated the following day with frostbitten toes. Scott and Allen got to 8100 meters in 100 mile-per-hour winds. We had ideas of another attempt, but heavy snowfall in the second week of October prevented this. Also, our Nepali cook, Nima Mangal Sing Tamang was caught in an avalanche near Base Camp. His body was later cremated at the Rongbuk Monastery. Other expeditions on the north side abounded and all had problems clearing Base Camps due to the depth of the snow.

SANDY ALLAN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

PLATE 56

Photo by Joss Lynam

CHANGTSE from the Lho La. The South Ridge is on the right.



Everest Attempt. In September, the Iranian, Mischa Saleki, who lives in Germany, reached the North Col of Everest from the East Rongbuk Glacier with two Sherpas but did not go higher.

Everest Tragedy. The Defense Academy Team led by Takashi Kawakami comprised 10 members. They hoped to climb Everest by the west ridge via the Rongbuk Glacier. The climbing leader, Masashi Yokoyama, was drowned when he failed to jump across a glacial stream between Base Camp and Camp I. In spite of the tragedy, the team continued to attempt the mountain but had to give up at 8000 meters in the last week of October.

SADAO TAMBE, A.A.C. and Himalayan Association of Japan

Everest. A Japanese expedition is attempting Mount Everest from Tibet during the winter, as reported in January of 1988. The leader Tsuneko Hasegawa is accompanied by his wife and two others. They had hoped to make their climb in the autumn but were prevented by the big October snowstorm from getting to the mountain. They did get to Base Camp on December 9 with permission to continue their attack until February. On January 5 they established Camp III at 7500 meters, apparently in the great couloir. Further details are not yet available.

Everest Photo Correction. The photograph in Plate 79 of *A.A.J., 1987* on page 303 was printed backwards.

Changtse. We were R. Turner, G. Nash, D. Hunter, C. Gordon, J. Smart and I as leader. We established Base Camp at 5100 meters on September 5. Camps I and II were at the traditional sites on the East Rongbuk Glacier at 5400 and 5800 meters. Advance Base was at 6000 meters at the junction of the Changtse and East Rongbuk Glaciers. We spent two weeks acclimatizing. Two routes were attempted: 1) a central couloir to the left of the north-face icefall, climbed by a Japanese team in 1986 in the pre-monsoon, tried by Nash and Turner; 2) an objectively safer route farther east which led to the ridgeline and thence to the summit, attempted by Hunter, Smart, Gordon and me. We on the second team reached 7100 meters after three bivouacs at 6400, 7000 and 7100 meters. Gordon and I turned back there, while Smart and Hunter went on to 7200 meters before turning back two days later. The first team, Nash and Turner, reached the summit (7580 meters, 24,869 feet) on September 29 after bivouacs at 6200, 6500, 6650 and 6900 meters despite high winds, two avalanche incidents and a fall into a schrund.

LOUIS A. WHITTON, *Australia*

Changtse Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Mike Barry, Richard Fry, Sarah Gillam, Leslie Lawrence, Shay Nolan, Donal O'Murchu, Danny

PLATE 57

Photo by Michiko Takahashi

CHO OYU from the North.



and Geraldine Osborne, Dermot Somers, Phil Thomas and me as leader. We had hoped to ascend the southwest ridge and descend the north ridge. In the snow conditions prevailing, the southeast ridge was unclimbable, as was the north ridge from the *Main Rongbuk Glacier*. (The Australians were on the *East Rongbuk* side.) We turned to the south ridge running up from Everest's North Col. Two summit attempts were made from camp on the col. The first was frustrated by a heavy snowfall, leading to an epic retreat down the east side of the col to the East Rongbuk. The second party, Nugent and Thomas, were stopped by avalanche conditions at 7250 meters. Like other expeditions in the Everest region, we had difficulty getting out to the main road after the heavy snowfall of late October.

JOSS LYNAM, *Federation of Mountaineering Clubs of Ireland*

Cho Oyu from Tibet. Our group from five nations under my leadership placed 13 climbers on the summit of Cho Oyu via the northwest side, the same as has normally been climbed after crossing from the Nepalese side. We approached from Kathmandu by way of Kodari-Zhangmu through Tingri in Tibet. Ours was the first foreign expedition to make our entire approach from the Tibetan side. Base Camp and Camps I, II, III and IV were at 5700, 6400, 6800, 7200 and 7600 feet. Our summit climbs took place between April 29 and May 12 with temperatures as low as -35° C. We used no artificial oxygen and had no high altitude porters. The following reached the summit: Swiss Fredy Graf and Josef Wangeler on April 29 (along with two Chileans and two Sherpas who had come from the Nepalese side); Austrians Peter Wörgötter, Helmut Wagner and Oswald Gassler on May 5; German Karl Wimmer on May 6; Swiss Robert Hofer on May 7; Austrian Robert Strouhal on May 8; Austrians Wastl Wörgötter, Kurt Hecher and Hanns Pree on May 9; Netherlander Bart Vos on May 12. Vos tried unsuccessfully to climb a new route on the northwest face and reached 6700 meters before switching to the standard route.

MARCUS SCHMUCK, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Cho Oyu Ascent and Paraglider Descent. After seven Sherpas joined us on August 25, we settled Base Camp that same day at the tongue of the Gyabrag Glacier at 4950 meters. We were Kazuyuki Takahashi, Akio Hayakawa, Kenji Kondo, Tomoji Kato, co-leaders Yoshitomi Ohkura and I, and a Asahi Newspaper and Television team consisting of Junichiro Ohkei, Houei Ohtani, Taijiro Maeda and Shinji Kobayashi. On September 5, Camp I was placed at 6350 meters on the north-northwest side of Cho Oyu. In the following bad weather, we carried loads to Camp I. On the 15th, Camp II was established at 7200 meters. The route to there went around the right end of the icefall. Camp III was put at the bottom of the rock band at 7700 meters on September 18. On September 20, after a 4½-hour climb from Camp III, Hayakawa and Kondo

reached the summit without supplementary oxygen. They had climbed to the southern side of the vast summit snowfield in knee-deep snow. Suddenly Everest and Lhotse appeared through a rift in the dense fog. On September 21, Ohkura, K. Takahashi, Kato, Ohtani and Sherpas Nima Dorje and Ang Dawa reached the top. (They were accompanied by Frenchman Thierry Renard, who apparently was not authorized to make the climb—*Editor*.) Takahashi descended in ten minutes from the summit some 2600 vertical meters to Base Camp by paraglider. It took him five tries to take off. This is the record for the highest take-off. This is all the more remarkable when you consider that he had to run some distance on the flat mountain top to be able to take off. On September 22, Kobayashi, Sherpas Lhakpa Tenzing, Ang Phurba and Mingma Tenzing and I gained the summit. We withdrew from Base Camp on September 26 and were in Lhasa on the 29th.

MRS. MICHIKO TAKAHASHI, *Kamoshika Alpine Club, Japan*

Menlungtse Attempt. Our team was composed of Norwegians Odd Eliassen, Bjørn Myrer-Lund, Torgeir Fosse and Helge Ringdal and Britons Jim Fotheringham and me. Getting to Base Camp was an adventure. We had originally planned on five days to reach there from the Nepalese-Tibetan frontier at Kodari, but it took us over a fortnight. We made a difficult trip by lorry over the 17,500-foot Lalung Leh pass to Tingri. There our liaison officer, Wang Ja Ren, told us that the pass that led back south was still blocked by snow but that he had ordered yaks to carry our gear over it. Life was further complicated by altitude sickness which afflicted for the time being three of the Norwegians. We finally made it to the northern foot of the Nangpa La. We swung to the right from the route over the Nangpa La, climbed a steep ridge and crossed a 17,500-foot pass and, despite reluctance on the part of the yak drivers, descended to Chang Bu Jian, the district headquarters. After much bargaining, we got yaks and porters to continue in the narrow valley with its lush green vegetation in contrast with the dry Tibetan plateau. We set out on March 22, walking down an incredibly beautiful gorge. An hour's walk took us to the confluence with the Menlung valley. We climbed steeply up the valley and on March 25 found a perfect site for our Base Camp at 13,400 feet, ten days behind schedule. On our first reconnaissance on March 27, we looked at the north side of the mountain, walking up a long moraine towering above the glacier, but there was no hope from that side. The following day we set out to explore the southern aspect. The four ridges dropping from the high ramparts all appeared difficult and steep, but the route that gave the greatest chance was more of a buttress than a ridge. Three days later, on April 2, we were at 17,200 feet at the foot of the buttress, although the approach had been frightening. We decided to use fixed rope to make it safer for the descent and to give us a higher jumping-off point for our alpine-style push for the summit. We ran out some rope-lengths before dropping down to Advance Base in the valley. The following day we returned with tents and food, but we still had rope to fix. On

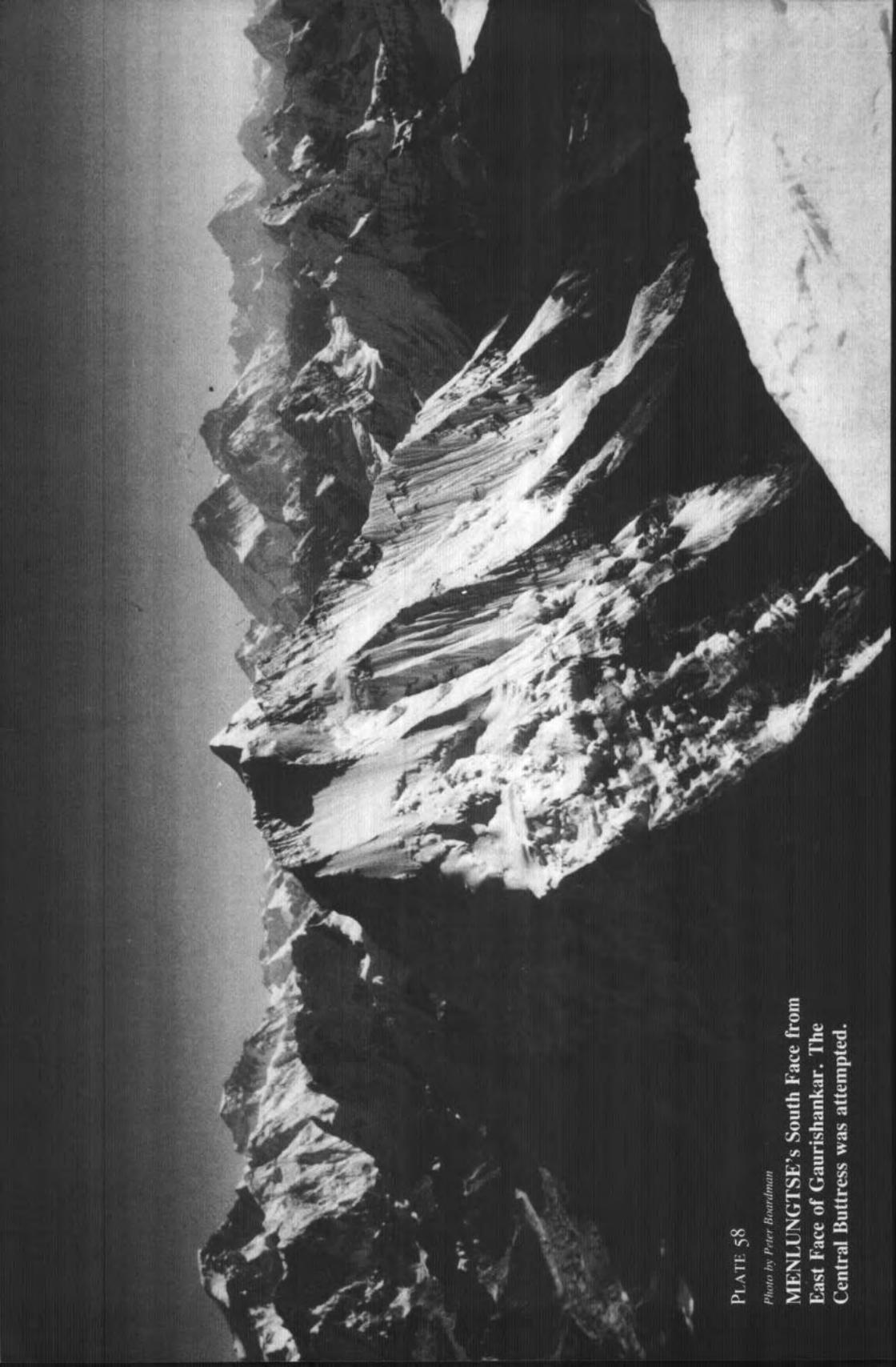


PLATE 58

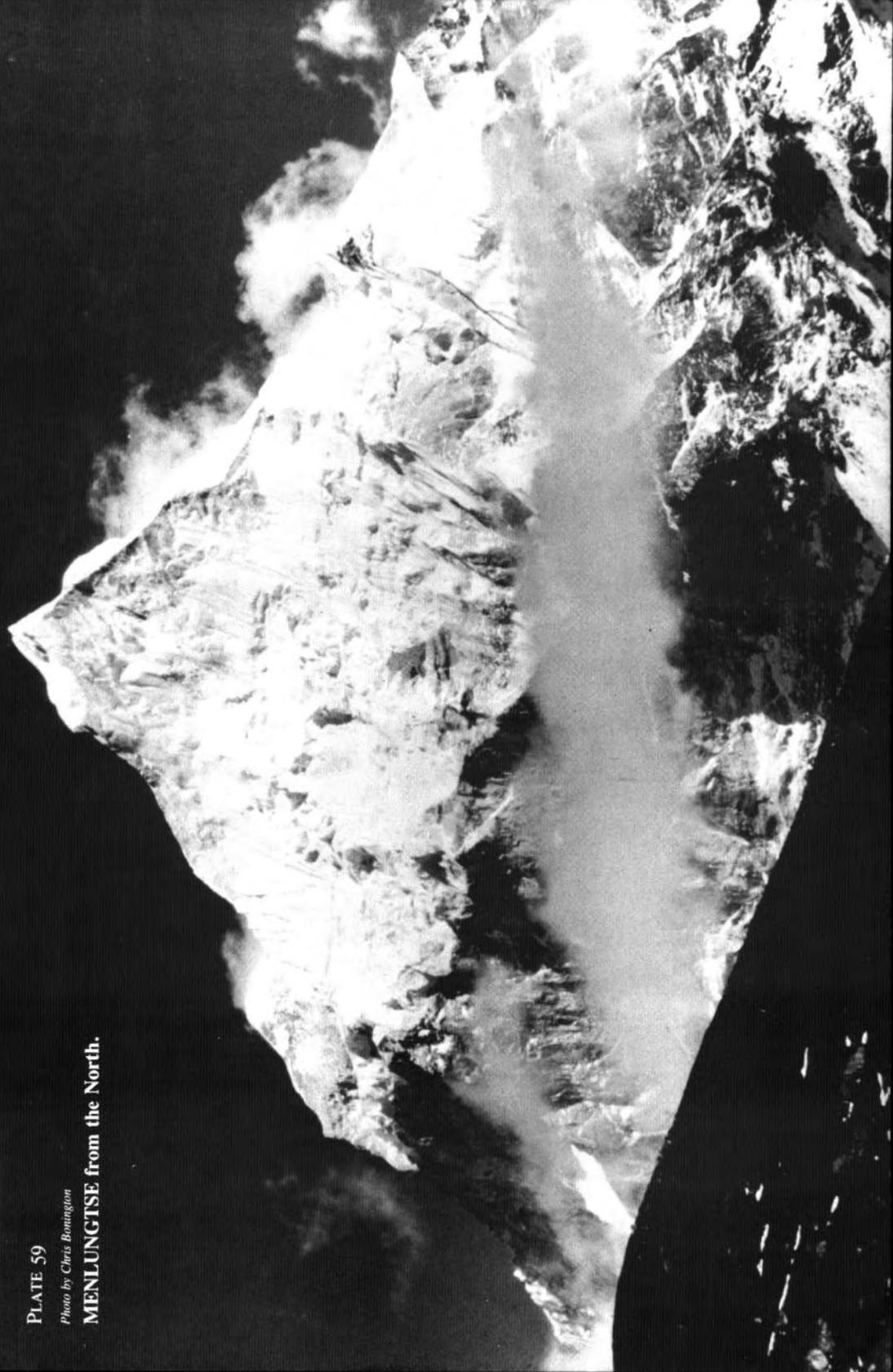
Photo by Peter Boardman

**MENLUNG TSE'S South Face from
East Face of Gaurishankar. The
Central Buttress was attempted.**

PLATE 59

Photo by Chris Bonington

MENLUNGTSE from the North.



April 5, we put the rest of the rope in place. This took us to the rocky crest of the buttress but what had looked like solid rock from a distance turned out to be a terrifying pile of shattered blocks. There was the constant threat of dislodging one of the huge rocks, which all weighed several tons. Eventually the difficulties eased and the rock was marginally more sound. We climbed another four or five rope-lengths until we had used up our fixed line and our four climbing ropes before dropping back to our camp at the foot of the ridge. Now it was time for our alpine-style summit attempt. Heavily laden with six days of food and gear, by late afternoon we had reached the top of the fixed ropes and picked up our climbing ropes. Odd Eliassen and Bjørn Myrer-Lund camped a few meters above us shouted down that the way ahead looked clear. The following day we made faster progress, but at three P.M. clouds swirled in. Jim and I were digging into the crest of the steep, narrow snow ridge when I was aware of a high-pitched buzz. Jim collapsed onto his knees. "I've been struck," he muttered. It was lightning. There was nothing we could do and we had to camp there. The next morning the wind was as fierce as ever. Bjørn and Odd's tent had been torn to shreds. We had to retreat. This was no easy matter. We were nine rope-lengths above the top of the fixed ropes. I began to fall as I clipped badly into the abseil rope, but I just managed to grab the rope, which tore my hands, and I held on. It was late afternoon when we reached the camp at the foot of the ridge. Without discussion, we stripped the site and carried everything down to the valley, 3000 feet below. We hadn't really examined the southeast ridge, which led straight to the summit. Four of us walked below the southeast ridge and realised it would be even more difficult and time-consuming than the buttress. We decided to try our original route, fixing the remainder of our rope so that we could have a higher jumping-off point. We returned to the fray on April 16, spent two days reascending the difficult section and leaving a line of fixed rope behind us. At the end of the second day we were hit by another thunderstorm and retreated all the way to Base Camp. The next morning the weather seemed to improve and we rushed straight back, going from Base at 13,400 feet to Camp I at 17,200 feet in a single day and on the following one, April 22, climbed the fixed ropes to the previous high point of 20,000 feet. We had plenty of food and fuel and felt well set for a push to the summit. That evening it began to snow and blow. The next afternoon Odd and Bjørn decided to go down. Jim and I sat out one more night, hoping for an improvement. It started snowing ten minutes after they left and by dark the wind had built up into a crescendo of terrifying force. The following morning, shaken and exhausted, we fled as the weather deteriorated even more.

CHRISTIAN BONINGTON

Labuche Kang Reconnaissance, 1986. From September 1 to October 5, 1986, a joint Chinese-Japanese expedition made a reconnaissance of Labuche Kang (7367 meters, 24,170 feet). The peak lies between Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma. The Chinese were Cheng Tian Lian, leader, and Lee Wang, and the

Japanese were Yasuhei Saito and Masashi Kumada. They made Base Camp at Longoro village at 4500 meters on September 9, 1986 and Advance Base at Tsolongma at 5300 meters on September 17. On September 18, they climbed P 6140 (20,145 feet) and spotted a possible but not too easy route. From a new Advance Base they ascended a lateral moraine and located a suitable Camp I site at 5650 meters. From there, they climbed to a 6200-meter col and found a reasonable route on the west ridge. The north face and north ridge were deemed unsuitable.

SADAO TAMBE, *A.A.C. and Himalayan Association of Japan*

Labuche Kang. Labuche Kang lies between Cho Oyu and Shishapangma. The joint expedition of the Tibetan Mountaineering Association and the Himalayan Association of Japan was led by Cheng Tian Liang with deputy leader Ken'ichi Yamamori. There were nine members from each association. On September 16, we established Base Camp at 4500 meters near Langgoloz village. On the 20th we placed Advance Base 21 kilometers up the valley at 5300 meters. On September 28 we pitched Camp I on a snow plateau at 5600 meters. Camp II was established on October 6 at 6150 meters on the hanging glacier on the northwest face. We fixed 20 ropes to gain the west ridge. The blizzard from October 17 to 19 left heavy snow. Camp I was buried by a snow slide but no members were hurt. Camp III was placed on the west ridge on October 25. On October 26, Japanese Hidekatsu Furukawa, Keiichi Sudo, Osamu Tanabe and I and Tibetans Wanjia, Diaqiog, Gyala and Lhaji climbed to the summit (7367 meters, 24,170 feet), having fixed 14 more ropes. On October 27, Japanese Sadao Ogawa, Yasuhiro Hashimoto and Toshiya Takahashi and Tibetans Lhaba, Pupu, Akapu and Tonglu also got to the summit. Tonglu and Lhaji are ladies. Lhaji is only 17 years old.

ATARU DEUCHI, *Himalayan Association of Japan*

Shisha Pangma Attempt. Our climbing party consisted of Chuck Huss, Ken Nolan, John Perner, Art Porter and me. We arrived at Base Camp at 16,000 feet by truck on April 12, anticipating a straightforward climb on the normal route from the north. With 15 yaks, we moved toward the head of the valley in two days. There the yak drivers refused to proceed, reluctant because of the unusually deep snow cover from the heavy winter snows. We continued ferrying loads for the next ten days, but a variety of illnesses and minor injuries caused one after the other to drop out. We abandoned the climb on April 24.

RICHARD DIETZ, *Colorado Mountain Club*

Shisha Pangma. New Zealanders Steve Bruce and Dick Price reached the summit of Shisha Pangma by the standard route on May 16, followed on May 20 by leader Mike Perry and Mark Whetu, who descended on skis. The latter

is a Maori. A nine-man Austro-Swiss expedition, organized by Hanns Schell and led by Stefan Wörner, climbed the standard route. The lower central summit was reached by Swiss Alfred Meyer and West Germans Otto Huber, Klaus Solbach and Peter Blank. Poles Wanda Rutkiewicz and Ryszard Warecki, Mexicans Elsa Avila and Carlos Carsolio and Ecuadorian Ramiro Navarrete, all members of a Polish expedition, got to the main summit. A seven-man commercial expedition led by Oreste Forno abandoned its attempt on the standard route on September 10 after having reached Camp I at 6400 meters in bad weather with huge accumulations of snow.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Shisha Pangma and Kukuczka's 14th 8000er. Polish climber Jerzy Kukuczka became the second person after Reinhold Messner to scale the world's 14 highest mountains when he completed his ascent of Shisha Pangma. The 13-member international team, which he led, established Base Camp on August 22 at 5800 meters. To acclimatize, Kukuczka and Artur Hajzer climbed virgin P 7365, north of the Shisha Pangma massif. Bad weather with much snow delayed progress, but three camps were established at 6400, 6800 and 7000 meters. By mid September the skies cleared and the final attack could begin. On September 18 at five P.M., Kukuczka and Hajzer reached the summit, having ascended the unclimbed west ridge. The climb was made in three days alpine-style, starting from Camp Ia. On the way they made the first ascent of the western peak (c. 7966 meters, 26,083 feet). At the same time, Mexicans Elsa Avila and Carlos Carsolio, Ecuadorian Ramiro Navarrete, and Poles Wanda Rutkiewicz and Ryszard Warecki arrived on top. The following day, Englishman Alan Hinkes and American Steve Untch attained the summit via another new route, the central couloir of the north face. After a bivouac, Kukuczka skied down from the summit. On September 24, they left Base Camp. A total of nine climbers reached the summit, two of them ladies. They made two impressive new routes, the third and fourth on Shisha Pangma. Two virgin peaks were ascended. Elsa Avila is the first Latin-American woman to top an 8000er. Wanda Rutkiewicz became the first and only woman to have climbed four 8000ers, which include Everest and K2. The most remarkable success, however, is that of Kukuczka. In nine years, he climbed all fourteen 8000ers, outclassing Messner in the style of his ascents. While the famous Tirolean made some of his climbs by the standard routes and with Sherpa help, Kukuczka climbed all except Lhotse by new routes or in winter. Cho Oyu, Kangchenjunga and Annapurna were first winter ascents.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Shisha Pangma. Our nine-member Hungarian team climbed Shisha Pangma by the original route. We had a difficult journey to the mountain and back: Budapest-Moscow-Tashkent-Delhi-Kathmandu-Base Camp-Lhasa-Golmud-

PLATE 60

Photo by Stephen Venables

**Nyanang Ri, Pangpa Ri and Shisha
Pangma (summit hidden).**



Beijing-Ulan Bator-Moscow-Budapest, half of it on the surface to manage it by the cheapest way. From Base Camp at 5000 meters, we reconnoitered on September 11 for a site for Advance Base at 5850 meters. With six yaks and two drivers, we walked the 30 kilometers to Advance Base from September 18 to 20. Camps I and II were placed at 6400 and 6950 meters. On the 25th we had to return to Advance Base because Peter Dékány had fallen seriously ill. After two days' rest, three of us set out again and made Camp III on the very windy northeast ridge at 7400 meters. On October 1, Attila Ozsváth and I got to the top. When Zoltán Balaton, László Vörös, József Csíkos and László Várkonyi got to Camp III, they had to dig a snow cave because the tent had been blown off by the wind. On October 8, they also reached the summit. These were the 25th and 26th ascents of Shisha Pangma.

SÁNDOR NAGY, *Magyar Hegymászó Klub, Hungary*

Pungpa Ri Second Ascent and Shisha Pangma Attempt. Our expedition was a joint civilian and military operation with a 17-member climbing team led by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Day and a 12-member scientific team led by Colonel John Blashford-Snell. The climbing objective was to make the first ascent of Shisha Pangma from the east, by the unexplored Phola Glacier. Base Camp was established at 4950 meters near the snout of the glacier on October 21, but due to illness and yak transport difficulties it was another two weeks before all the climbers and supplies were installed. From a close look at the mountain, we decided that the main east face was too dangerous and opted for a circuitous route via the southeast face of Pungpa Ri. Advance Base was at 5100 meters on the Phola Glacier. A complex icefall, where we fixed short sections of rope, led to Camp I at 5850 meters. An easier section of glacier brought us to Camp II at the head of the cwm between Nyanang Ri and Pungpa Ri. The 60-meter-high 50° ice-and-mixed face was fixed with rope and on October 16 Camp III, a four-man snow hole, was dug into the col between the two peaks. So far, the weather had been fine. On October 17, the Everest region was hit by a big 2½-day storm. Most of the tents were destroyed and a large equipment cache at Camp II was lost in an avalanche. After the storm resources were limited but the weather was perfect. Luke Hughes and I set off on October 21 with food and gear for a summit attempt. John Vlasto and Kate Phillips accompanied us to Camp II. Snowshoes were essential to break trail from Camp I to II. The fixed ropes on the headwall were intact but often buried. On October 25, we two continued from Camp III up the south ridge of Pungpa Ri, joining the final part of the Scott-McIntyre-Baxter-Jones route of 1982. We reached the summit (7486 meters, 24,561 feet) at two P.M. We camped just below the summit and on the 26th continued toward the three-kilometer connecting ridge to Shisha Pangma, carrying just a shovel, food and a gas stove for an emergency bivouac. We traversed across the south face of Pungpa Ri to the Pungpa Ri-Shisha Pangma col. A fairly firm wind crust provided good conditions, but knife-edged bumps were time-consuming and by four P.M. we

had reached only 7650 meters. With a big cloud build-up we decided to dig a snow hole and to try for the summit in the morning. After a cold night without sleeping bags, we left at dawn on the 27th but after 50 meters had to descend because of strong winds. At the tent on Pungpa Ri, Hughes discovered that several fingers were frostbitten. On October 28, we descended to Camp II. Nigel Williams and John Vlasto had come up to investigate and, finding we needed no help, they were able to repeat the ascent of Pungpa Ri. The whole climbing team reassembled at Base Camp on October 29. There were hopes of another summit attempt, but a radio message from the Tibetan Mountaineering Association and the local government forbade this and ordered us down to Nyalam. That same day, 18 Tibetans arrived at Base Camp, announcing that they were not porters but a "rescue party" sent to escort us down. It seems likely that the liaison officer and the interpreter, anxious to get home, played a part in having us removed from the mountain. It seems that although the CMA and TMA are charging ever more exorbitant rates, they no longer provide the efficient service of a few years ago.

STEPHEN VENABLES, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Minor Peaks around Shisha Pangma. In addition to the attempt on Shisha Pangma described above, we made climbs of other peaks. P 5900, east of Phola Ganchen and north of the lake Kung Tso, was probably first climbed by the 1984 reconnaissance party; it was ascended this year by Brian Davidson and me on separate occasions. P 5750 immediately east of P 5900 was also climbed by Davidson and me. P 5850, on the long ridge flanking the east side of the Kung Tso, was also probably first ascended by the reconnaissance party; its summit was reached by Chung Kin Man and Robert Durran and later by me, when I also ascended P 5625 and P 5800 on the same ridge.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Nianqintanggula Correction, A.A.J., 1987. On page 299 of *A.A.J., 1987*, the Editor admitted that he did not know of the location of the peak. This information has been supplied by Xavier Eguskitza. It lies about 90 kilometers northwest of Lhasa in the middle of a long range west-southwest to east-northeast. The coordinates of this 7088-meter peak are 30°23'N, 90°35'E.

Dolmalari. While making two pilgrimage circumambulations of unclimbed Kailas in western Tibet, I made an apparent first ascent of a non-technical peak above the Dolma La, a pass shown as 18,600 feet on most maps. Although my altimeter readings were within 100 feet of most ground references, both times I climbed the pass my altimeter indicated about 18,150 feet. Since the peak was an indicated 900 feet above the pass, I have chosen an altitude of 19,050 feet. Since Tibetans are likely to leave evidence of their passage on peaks, with

no sign of human presence I assume that it had not previously been ascended. The peak is a mile northwest of the pass and affords a fantastic view of the north face of Kailas as well as of Gurla Mandhata and Nanda Devi in the distance. On the east side of the pass I attempted a spectacular granite spire, locally called "Thari" ("shovel" in Tibetan) because it is shaped like an upside-down shovel. Its narrow spire culminates in a wildly overhanging flake of granite. I got to within 15 vertical feet of the summit but could not solo the exceedingly exposed 5.11 final block. The highest point, however, is behind and to the left of the prominent shovel blade seen from the pass. This I ascended after several tries via 5.9 climbing on the north side. My altimeter read 18,100 feet. Both climbs were on June 16.

GALEN ROWELL

Tamchok Kambab Kangri. While exploring the source of the Brahmaputra River for the National Geographic Society, I made a solo first ascent of the peak immediately above the two source glaciers about 60 miles southeast of Kailas. Tamchok Kambab means "the horse's mouth," an allusion to the appearance of the source of the river where the two glaciers form the horse's ears and the peak behind them is the face of the horse. The two glaciers are completely separated by the knife-edged west ridge of the peak. My one-day ascent began by headlamp on June 20 from a camp beside the river at 16,300 feet, which we had reached by driving 30 miles overland in Land Cruisers from the southern road to Kailas and then by walking for two days. The peak lies seven miles from the Tibetan-Nepalese border just north of Dolpo. At the point where the Tamchok Kambab Glacier produces the Chemayungdung River (the true source of the Brahmaputra), I found a herd of 17 wild yaks, the ancestor of the domestic yak. At over 17,000 feet, I found herds of Tibetan wild asses, as well as wolves, gazelles and antelope in the lower valleys. Because of mountaineering gear lost during my first leg of air travel from Oakland to Los Angeles, my equipment for the ascent was limited: high-topped trekking boots and adjustable ski poles. They served well as I walked by the edge of the glacier, scrambled up mixed snow and rock and traversed up a snow slope to the summit ridge at 20,000 feet. To my consternation, the true summit was a mile away along a corniced ridge, interrupted by rock turrets. By a combination of step-kicking and crawling, I traversed the ridge to a final 5.6 rock tower, where a 15-foot headwall of crumbling gneiss put me on the virgin summit (6285 meters, 20,620 feet). I dreaded descending the corniced ridge without crampons and ice axe and so I chose a route down a 50° snowfield that was perfect for stepkicking. A thousand feet below, the snowfield merged with rock walls dripping with water and festooned with icicles and verglas. The descent took almost as long as the ascent, and I finally made it back to camp at five in the afternoon.

GALEN ROWELL