

Southeastern China

Kang Karpo Tragedy, 1991. Kang Karpo (6740 meters, 22,113 feet), as it is called by the local population, is known as Meili by the Chinese. The highest mountain in Yunnan, it has resisted strong Japanese and American attempts. In late 1990, a party of eleven Japanese of the Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto with Jiro Inoue as climbing leader and seven Chinese tried again to climb the peak. On December 14, they set up Base Camp at 3800 meters and soon had three camps established on the northeast ridge of the mountain. On December 28, they made a summit try which reached 6470 meters. Camp III, located at 5100 meters in the upper basin of the Min-Yun Glacier, was more comfortable than Base Camp and so the whole expedition, except for one ill Chinese climber, was there in the first days of January, waiting for better weather. They were in constant contact with the Chinese liaison officer, Mr. Chen, in Base Camp. Each climber had a walkie-talkie and so it was impossible when no further contact could be made on January 4 that all the radios were out of order. The camp was doubtless overwhelmed by an avalanche. The Chinese Mountaineering Association and the Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto both sent rescue parties, but deep snow made the approach difficult. The Chinese got to Base Camp on January 9 and the Japanese on the 20th. The Chinese party was able to reach Camp II in the col above the Min-Yun Glacier at 5300 meters. (Camp II was 200 meters higher than Camp III.) However, the dangerous conditions prevented their getting to Camp III. The Japanese rescue party reached 4200 meters. On January 25, the Chinese and Japanese parties decided to give up further action because of continuing bad weather. An aerial photograph showed thick avalanche debris near Camp III.

KAZUMASA HIRAI, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto*

Gongga Shan Attempt. A four-man expedition to Gongga Shan was led by Akio Kanagoe. He had been the leader of the tragic 1981 northeast-ridge expedition which had lost eight of its members. This time the Japanese attempted the northwest ridge, by which the first ascent had been made. They established Base Camp and Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 4000, 4250, 4950, 5740, 6350 and 6450 meters on April 1, 6, 12, 19, 28 and 30. On May 1, Kanagoe and Kenji Yamamoto left Camp V but high winds prevented their getting to the summit.

Gongga Shan Attempt. An Italian expedition led by Evanio Marchesani failed to climb Gongga Shan. Details are lacking.

Namcha Barwa. The Japanese Alpine Club has permission to try this remote peak in a joint expedition with the Chinese in 1991. In November and December, a reconnaissance party of 4 Japanese and 6 Chinese led by Tsuneo Shigehiro explored the west-northwest and the south ridges.

Tibet

Everest Environmental Expedition. A full article on this expedition appears earlier in this volume.

Everest Attempt. Our expedition had hoped to climb the Great Couloir, but due to the lack of snow and rockfall we decided on the west ridge. Our climbing members were Peter Habeler, Martín Zabaleta, Vernon Tejas, Bob John, Mike Gordon, Brad Nieman, Normand Bergeron and I as leader. We arrived at Base Camp at 17,000 feet on March 8. We established Advance Base, Camps I, II and III at 18,500, 19,500, 21,300 and 23,300 feet on March 13, 24, April 8 and 15. Camp III was just below the top of the west shoulder. We had hoped to have a temporary Camp IV at 24,600 feet. The summit team of Habeler, Zabaleta and me went from Camp I to III on April 22. That night I felt ill and the next day Habeler also became ill as he started for Camp IV. The summit attempt was called off. Later, on May 8, Zabaleta, Lhakpa Rita Sherpa and Man Tamang made a summit attempt, hoping to join a small but very strong Swiss team that had climbed from Nepal to the top of the west shoulder. The Swiss found the snow too deep on the ridge and returned from between Camps III and IV. Martín, Lhakpa and Man continued on but were struck that night by food poisoning. The next day they reached a high point of 7800 meters (c. 25,600 feet) before returning, feeling very ill. We left the mountain on May 18.

TODD BURLESON, *Alpine Ascents International*

Everest International Peace Climb. Jim Whittaker's article on this climb of Everest by Americans, Tibetans and Soviets appears earlier in this volume.

Everest Attempt. The Iranian climber, Mischa Saleki, who lives in West Germany, is reported to have attempted Everest's west ridge from the north and to have reached 7800 meters on May 26. [Previous reports from Saleki have often proved not to be accurate.—*Editor.*]

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Attempt. Our members were Shaun Norman, Chris Curry, Mark Whetu, Dick Price, Hugh Van Noorden, Steve Bruce, Anton Woperies, Mike Rheinberger and I as leader. We hoped to climb Everest's north face with a start on the left side of the Great Couloir. We got to Base Camp on April 16. From April 17 to May 13, we established Advance Base and Camps I and II, the latter in a schrund just below the north face on the Middle Rongbuk Glacier. From May 14 to June 3, we fixed rope up to the North Col and placed camps on the North Col and at 7800 and 8200 meters. The first summit attempt was made by Bruce and Van Noorden on June 4. After leaving the high camp at five A.M.,

they made rapid progress to the top of the First Step. There they encountered an exposed, loose rock traverse towards the Second Step. Not carrying a rope to save weight and time, they became concerned about returning over such serious ground unroped after reaching the summit. Bruce turned back. Van Noorden carried on to the top of the Third Step but turned back at 2:30 P.M. at 8730 meters. The second summit try was made on June 11 by Whetu, Rheinberger, Curry and me. Whetu and I left camp at four A.M. to repair old fixed rope in the Yellow Band. We placed 70 meters of new rope and dug up much old rope. The other two set out at six A.M. The wind increased steadily and by nine o'clock, when we had reached the start of the Norton Traverse, the three not using bottled oxygen were thoroughly frozen. Sadly, Curry, who was tolerably warm, had to turn back with us as the terrain ahead was not safe for solo travel.

MICHAEL PERRY, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

Everest Attempt and Tragedy. Our expedition was composed of Salvador Rivas, Dr. Malen Morales, Juan Salcedo, Carlos Salcedo, José Bienvenido, Manuel González, Rafael Gómez-Menor, Angel Ortiz, Bruno Pérez de Tudela and me as leader. We attempted the North Col route. On September 14, as five of our party were climbing to the North Col, they were swept away by an avalanche. Rafael Gómez-Menor and the Nepalis Ang Sona and Badri Nath were hurled into a crevasse and killed. Carlos Salcedo and Chowang Rinzi Sherpa were injured and had to be rescued. The route to the North Col this autumn was threatened by great unstable séracs.

CÉSAR PÉREZ DE TUDELA, *Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain*

Everest Attempt via the Japanese Couloir. An Italian expedition led by Giuseppe Pozzoli was unable to climb the north face of Everest. They got to 7000 meters in the Japanese Couloir on September 29.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Super Couloir Attempt. Robert Anderson, Harry Kent, Chris Reveley, Jay Smith, Paul Teare and I as leader failed in our alpine-style bid on Everest's Super Couloir (Japanese-Hornbein Couloirs). To our great disappointment, the window of favorable weather that normally occurs in mid-September between monsoon snows and autumn winds never developed. While we were able to acclimatize extremely well on the peaks surrounding Everest, storms and avalanche danger frustrated our attempts on the north face. The only attempt of merit on the Super Couloir came on September 18. Smith, Kent, Anderson and I left Camp I at 19,800 feet at the base of the north face in the early evening and climbed all night and the next morning. We stopped at 25,700 feet in the early afternoon to rest with the hope to set off for the top in the evening. Deteriorating weather forced us to forego a summit bid and to bivouac. After a cold and fitful

night, we descended. On the descent I hit a patch of ice while glissading and covered the final 2000 feet to the bottom of the face faster than I cared for! We left Base Camp on September 29 after a severe storm and a spell of particularly bad weather. During our stay, our team worked with the Everest Environmental Expedition in cleaning up the Base Camp and Advance Base on the Middle Rongbuk Glacier. We also removed 1200 pounds of trash on the route between Advance Base and Camp I. To our dismay, we found a great deal of litter left by two 1990 pre-monsoon expeditions from New Zealand and the USA at this site. Apparently no effort was made by either team to remove trash away from the camp site or to crevasse it. It was ironic, given the laudable efforts of the Everest Environmental and the Peace expeditions, to find trash from an American team, and a commercially guided one led by premier guides at that!

MARK B. HESSE, *Unaffiliated*

Changtse, Southeast Face, 1986. I made an unreported ascent of Changtse in 1986 up a new route, the southeast face. This was the fourth ascent of the mountain and the first American one. I first tried a new line on the right of the southeast face on August 26, 1986 but was defeated by thin snow over shale at about 23,500 feet, just below the intersection with the German northeast ridge route. After a rest day, on August 28, I soloed a new route in the center of the face, up a prominent snow gully between two rock buttresses before angling to the right across the face and joining the northeast ridge, which I then followed to the top. I climbed the initial avalanche-prone gully at night by headlamp. The entire round-trip to the summit and back to Advance Base at 20,100 feet below the North Col took 15 hours.

ED WEBSTER

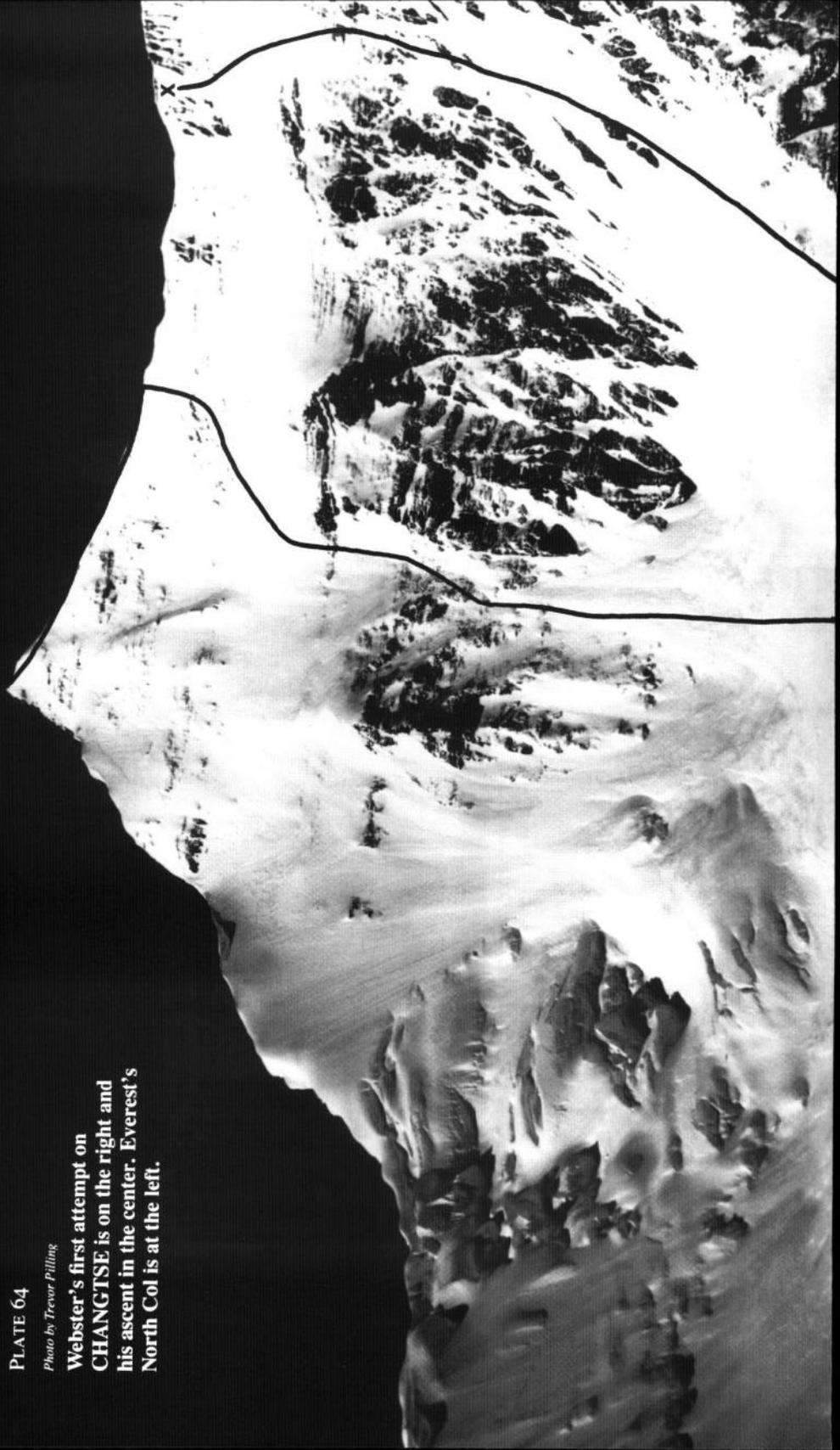
Changtse Correction. In *AAJ, 1989*, page 278, it stated that Italians had climbed a new route on the southeast face rather than to follow the whole of the very long German northeast ridge. Further clarification by the Italians shows that they did not climb the southeast face. They made a new variant of the northeast ridge route, climbing up the east face of the long ridge, which they crested at 6900 meters, where they placed their Camp III. They then followed the ridge to the summit.

Changtse, Southeast Face. We completed the second American ascent of Changtse by a route previously climbed by Ed Webster solo (see above), the southeast face. We also made a significant achievement in using the Gamow Bag as a treatment for cerebral edema. After our 1988 attempt on the tediously long northeast ridge and Keith Brown's nearly successful 1988 attempt on the southeast face (*AAJ, 1989*, pages 278-9), we organized a second expedition. We reached Everest's traditional Base Camp on April 20. We established Camps I,

PLATE 64

Photo by Trevor Pilling

**Webster's first attempt on
CHANGTSE is on the right and
his ascent in the center. Everest's
North Col is at the left.**



II, III and Advance Base at 18,000, 19,000, 20,000 and 21,000 feet on April 25, 27, 29 and May 1. We placed Camp IV at 21,400 feet and on May 3 had Camp V near a prominent buttress at the center of the southeast face about 300 yards from the base of Everest's North Col. On May 7, 1800 feet of line were fixed up Changtse's 50° to 55° southeast face to within 800 feet of the crest of the northeast ridge. On May 8, following an ascent of 500 feet of a 45° slope, John Cleary and Don McIntyre fixed an additional 300 feet of line up the final 70° headwall to the ridge. On May 9, McIntyre, Cleary, Doug Nixon, and Jerry and Michael Sisk reached the summit (7583 meters, 24,879 feet) at 8:30 P.M. after an 11-hour climb. The descent to Camp V took another six hours. Tragedy, meanwhile, nearly overshadowed success. On the morning of May 5, one of our members had to be evacuated from Camp IV to Advance Base with symptoms of cerebral edema. There, Dr. Sam Shields innovatively utilized the Gamow Bag as a treatment device not only to induce the injured climber's survival but also to restore him to a level of condition enabling me and four others to assist him down the mountain using the Gamow Bag along the way on May 7 and 8. The decision to use the bag in this manner, in combination with other vital medical treatment, was necessarily mandated by the condition of the patient who could not otherwise be moved from Advance Base without risk of death. The injured climber was evacuated from Base Camp to Kathmandu. The other members of the expedition were Dan Damon, Scott Dinham, R.J. Secor, Stan Horn, Dean Blanca and Scott Edwards.

PAUL PFAU

Changtse Attempt. An expedition led by me comprised Britons Andrew Elliot, Bill Bennett, Jeremy Edwards, Edward Morgan, Peter Wilson and Americans Paul Dornisch and Russell Lee. We attempted the southeast face. After fixing 1000 feet of rope, on October 21 we made a single push from camp on the East Rongbuk Glacier at 6400 meters. We reached 7200 meters in five hours, where dangerous windslab and breakable crust forced us to abandon the attempt.

STEPHEN BELL, *Himalayan Kingdoms, England*

Cho Oyu, Southwest Face and Shisha Pangma Central Summit, South Face. These excellent new routes by Kurtyka, Troillet and Loretan are described in a full article earlier in the volume.

Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma Central (West) Summit. Our expedition was composed of leader Benoît Chamoux, Frédéric Valet, Yves Detry, Pierre Royer, French, Mauro Rossi, Italian, Josef Rokoncaj, Czechoslovakian and me, British. All seven climbers were together on the summit of Cho Oyu on April 30 and twelve days later, on May 12, were all on the top of the central (not the highest)

summit of Shisha Pangma. On Cho Oyu we climbed the normal route with camps at 6500 and 7100 meters. These were set up on "acclimatization sorties." On Shisha Pangma, we climbed a new line left of the one Steve Untch and I did in 1987. We arrived at 5900-meter Shisha Pangma Base Camp on May 10. On May 11, we moved to camp at 7000 meters below the north face, where we rested until 1:30 A.M. on May 12. We climbed an 800-meter gully on the north face to reach the central (or west) summit at 1:30 P.M. [To have reached the main summit via the connecting ridge would have required another two hours. — *Editor.*]

ALAN HINKES, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Cho Oyu. A Japanese expedition of 13 climbers was led by Takao Haga. They climbed the normal route from the north: the west ridge and west face. On April 27, Hiroshi Kato, Yasushi Tanahashi, Mingma Tenzing Sherpa and Pekka Tenja Sherpa completed the 66th ascent of the peak.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. An Australian expedition led by Rick White made the 68th ascent by the normal route when Michael Groom reached the top of Cho Oyu on May 22. They then made an unsuccessful attempt on the north buttress, reaching 6800 meters on May 22.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. A commercial expedition led by Günther Härter climbed Cho Oyu by the normal west-ridge, west-face route from the north. On May 19, Germans Härter, Reinhard Müller, Dieter Albin Porsche, Walter Treibel and Austrian Gottfried Lindebner reached the summit. They were followed on May 27 by Germans Sigi and Gaby Hupfauer, Gerhard Binder, Peter Blank, Werner Funkler, Berthold Hochstuhl, Fräulein Gerhild Kurze, Harald Rössner, Uwe Schnitz, Franz Stark, Klaus Westphal, Udo Zehetleitner, Karl Zöll, Austrian Josef Tschoten and Ang Nawang Sherpa. The Hupfauers thus became the third married couple and the second surviving couple to have climbed three 8000ers together.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. An expedition led by Briton Harold Taylor had five British climbers, 2 French, a Swiss and a New Zealander. They climbed the normal route. On June 21, Taylor, New Zealander Russell Brice, and Sherpas Da Nuru and Lhakpa Gyalu reached the top.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu Attempt. Four Japanese led by Ryoichi Fukada attempted to climb Cho Oyu by the normal route, but they had to turn back at 7800 meters on August 31.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. Our expedition of three Belgians and two Nepalis established Base Camp and Camps I and II at 5750, 6400 and 7000 meters on July 31, August 4 and 12. We made the first summit attempt on August 13 and the second on the 18th. The third was successful. Louis Lange and I left Base Camp on August 22 and bivouacked at 7600 meters. We were on the summit at 11:15 on August 23. From 7000 meters we made a more direct ascent to the right of the classic route because the snow was deep and the avalanche danger great. Because of the fine weather, we could climb during much of the night.

ALAIN HUBERT, *Club Alpin Belge*

Cho Oyu Attempt. A six-man team of Spanish Basques was led by Juan Ignacio Lorente and included Angel Rosen, Luis María Saenz de Olazagoitia, José Urbieto, Benjamín Ruiz de Infante and Miguel Gómez. They attempted the standard route from the north during the monsoon. Early on, Lorente was affected by pulmonary edema and returned home, accompanied by Rosen. The other four managed to pitch Camp III at 7600 meters, but excessive snow and avalanche danger made them abandon the attempt at the end of August.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Spain*

Cho Oyu. A 14-member Hungarian expedition led by Dr. Sándor Nagy successfully climbed Cho Oyu by the normal route. The summit was reached on October 4 by Ákos Koncz, József Straub and Austrian Reinhard Wlasich, on October 7 by József Csíkos, László Vörös, László Várkonyi, Csaba Tóth and István Pajor, and on October 8 by Dr. Nagy, Szabolcs Szendrő and István Decsi.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Cho Oyu, Autumn Attempts. An international group of Italians, French and Spaniards led by Oscar Piazza failed at 7800 meters on the normal route on October 1. Italians led by Fabio Lenti could not get higher than 7300 meters on September 17. Spaniards Tolo Quetglas, J.M. Alvarez, R.A. Fernández and M.A. Huelmo got to 7400 meters on the normal route.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Menlungtse Attempt. Jim Wickwire, Jeff Duenwald, John Roskelley and I entered Tibet from Nepal, hoping to make the first ascent of the eastern and



PLATE 6

Photo by Bradford Washburn

MENLUNGTSE from the south.

highest summit of Menlungtse (7181 meters, 23,560 feet). The lower western summit had been climbed by two members of the Bonington expedition in 1987. The two summits are separated by a two-kilometer-long saddle and so are really separate objectives. We traveled by road to New Tingri and the Chinese camps for Cho Oyu. From April 4 to 13, we hiked with yaks over the Fusi La to the rarely visited village of Chang Bo Jiang, passed the tragic ruins of a splendid monastery and reached Base Camp below the west peak of Menlungtse. Over the next few weeks, we established Advance Base beneath the southeast ridge, ferried supplies to a camp at 19,000 feet and fixed five ropes on steep ice above it. During one of the ferries along the moraine, Roskelley came to within a few feet of a snow leopard. At first, he thought he had encountered a yeti. Yetis were always on our minds because it was in this valley that Shipton had photographed an alleged yeti footprint. We saw no traces of the yeti and local villagers who work in the lush forests knew nothing about such a creature. Those who did have an opinion of the yeti said, "No one can see the yeti because he is a god." The weather was bad in April. Thunderstorms rising out of Nepal would flow over the ridge of Gaurishankar and dump heavy snows. On one occasion Roskelley and I descended in a frightening electrical storm with everything metallic humming loudly. After several attempts to make progress on Menlungtse, Roskelley and I made an alpine-style bid beginning on May 9. We climbed 55° to 60° snow and ice and spent three nights on the ridge, two in tents and one in an unusual ice cave festooned with ice crystals. On May 12, we reached 21,200 feet. There the ridge leveled out into a heavily corniced knife-edge for some 2000 feet before the summit pyramid. The cornices were too fragile to support us. We retreated and Menlungtse East remains unclimbed.

GREG CHILD

Shisha Pangma. An international commercial expedition organized by Hauser Excursionen and led by Yugoslav Bogdan Brakus climbed the normal northeast route on Shisha Pangma. For better acclimatization, the 16-member group first drove from Kathmandu to Lhasa and thence to Base Camp. Although the weather was bad during most of the expedition, on May 11 Swiss Reno Bernhardsgrütter reached the central (or west) summit solo but turned back from there because of the excessive snow and overhanging cornices on the connecting ridge leading to the higher main summit. The following day, May 12, German Fries and Austrian Johann Neuhauser arrived at the main summit, avoiding the central summit by means of a traverse to the left across the face and directly to the top. That same day Czech Milan Cermak and German Helmut Daum on skis made the second ascent of the 7365-meter (24,163-foot) north summit.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Shisha Pangma Central (West) Summit. An international group followed the normal route to the central summit, but they made no attempt to reach the higher

main summit. On May 26, the leader, New Zealander Russell Brice, Australian Mark Lemaire, Norwegian Eirik Tryti and Briton Mark Vallance got to the central summit, followed the next day by Norwegian Olav Ulvund.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Shisha Pangma Medical Expedition. The Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto and the Kyoto University Medical School sent a medical expedition to Shisha Pangma. We had 32 Japanese and two Chinese members. There were 13 medical doctors, two clinical laboratory technicians, 13 climbers and six others. Three were women climbers, including one Chinese. The chief emphasis was on medical research. Clinical laboratory equipment was carried to Base Camp and higher. A unique feature was research on monkeys. A pair of young Japanese monkeys were trained before the expedition for hypoxia in a decompression chamber; they were carried up to Advance Base at 5640 meters, where their behaviour and physiological change at altitude were observed. Human observations were made on two elder doctors, aged 60 and 59, who climbed to the central summit. The overall leader was Dr. Takayoshi Tobe and deputy leaders Drs. Atsuo Saito and me. The research leader was Dr. Kozu Matsubayashi and the climbing leader was Tetsuro Matsuzawa. We climbed the normal northeast-ridge route. Base Camp, Advance Base, Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 5020, 5640, 5850, 6340 6920 and 7430 meters on March 30, April 6, 17, 21, 30 and May 4. Camp III was called Laboratory Camp because of the medical research carried on there. A Camp V was placed at 7700 meters on May 16 for research only. Holter-EKGs and Pulse-oxymetrics during sleep were tested at this camp. On May 17, Matsuzawa, Dr. Akira Demizu, Ryo Nagata, Kozo Tominaga, Shigeki Nakayama, Toshihiro Tsukihara, Masanari Takai, Hiroshi Fujita, Miss Azumi Shirasawa, Chinese Mrs. Tong Lu, Dawa Norbu Sherpa and Arjun Tamang reached the central summit. They were followed two days later by Dr. Kazuo Hirata, Tibetans Xiao Qimi and Purbu and Sherpas Ang Phuba and Mingma Norbu. On May 21, Drs. Matsubayashi, Saito, Shiro Seto and I, along with Masaharu Sakakibara, climbed to the central summit with three Sherpas. Most set out from Camp IV. *Medical Research:* Findings in high-altitude physiology included 1. *High-Altitude Retinal Hemorrhage:* This was observed in both eyes of 100% of those who reached 6000 meters for the first time. The incidence decreased significantly among experienced Himalayan climbers. It was observed among only half the climbers above 8000 meters and was mostly in only one eye. 2. *Gastric Hemorrhage:* Gastroscopic examination performed at Base Camp on the last day of the expedition on 25 members revealed a high incidence of gastric bleeding, namely four cases (16%). This was the first attempt of gastroscopy performed at such an altitude and in the field. 3. *Sleep Study:* Oxygen saturation monitoring during sleep confirmed the effectiveness of oxygen inhalation at high altitudes. Supplementary oxygen during sleep is advisable for safer high-altitude mountaineering. 4. *Monkey Study:* The monkeys were tolerant of hypoxia but weak against the cold. They often caught cold.

Polycythemia was observed even two months after coming home. EEGs during sleep were also recorded. 5. *Hormones*: The edema-related hormones (e.g. ACTH, ADH, ANG, PRA, Aldosterone, etc.) did not reveal any change at altitude compared with sea level. These hormones may not participate in high-altitude edema. 6. *Blood*: Sequential increase of erythropoietin, reticulocytes and erythrocytes was observed at high altitude. The increased activity of platelets at altitude was also confirmed.

MICHIRO NAKASHIMA, M.D., *Osakafu Saiseikai Izui Hospital,*
Osaka, Japan

Shisha Pangma Central (West) Summit Illegally Climbed by East Germans. Traveling on next-to-no money (we each spent the equivalent of US \$700 on the whole trip from East Germany and back), Winfried Kraus, Dr. Karsten König, Fräulein Sabine Körbs and I eluded Chinese authorities and reached our Shisha Pangma Base Camp on May 7. We had to go around the official Base Camp where there were the Chinese liaison officers. Despite very inadequate, home-made equipment, we three men climbed on the normal route to 7500 meters, where we felt too weak to continue on this first attempt. We returned to Camp I at 5800 meters. Several days later, on May 25, König and I again were back in Camp III at 7350 meters and the following day ascended to the slightly lower central summit, along with members of an international expedition. The conditions and the hour were such that we declined to climb to the main summit. [Editor's Note: While we may admire their ingenuity in getting to the mountain and climbing to the central summit, we deplore all illegal ascents which can not fail to cause difficulties for those climbers who do go through normal channels.]

REINHARDT TAUCHNITZ, *Leipzig, East Germany*

Shisha Pangma Pre-Monsoon Attempts. An Italian team led by Marco Berti attempted to climb Shisha Pangma in the pre-monsoon season but failed to get higher than 7200 meters. Swiss led by Fredi Graf of Eiselin Sport also made an attempt which ended at 7600 meters.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Shisha Pangma. A French commercial expedition made up of four men and four women was led by Jean-Pierre Bernard. Base Camp was reached on August 7. On August 25, leader Bernard, Charles Davignon, Bruno Lascoumes, Michel Monnier, Emmanuelle Jacquet, Annette Nault and Brigitte Djajasasmita got to the summit. The last three named were the first French women to reach 8000 meters on Shisha Pangma. Monique Hilaire did not feel well and stayed behind

at one of the camps. Brigitte Djajasmita, daughter of an Indonesian father and a French mother, was born in New York where she lived up to the age of 13. She holds dual American-French nationality and lives in Switzerland.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Spain*

Shisha Pangma Central Summit. A French group of hutmasters from Briançon, led by Pierre Lombard, managed to climb to the central summit (8008 meters, 26,274 feet) of Shisha Pangma in two groups: first, on September 30, by Jacques LeHir, André Benoit-Lizon and Georges Lombard (the leader's brother) together with the Spanish Television group (see below); and on October 1 by leader Lombard and his wife Bernadette Lions. On arriving at 7700 meters, where the Chinese route deviates to the left to traverse the northeast face, they decided against making the traverse which looked avalanche-prone. They made no attempt to reach the main summit on account of dangerous overhanging cornices.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Shisha Pangma Central Summit and Cho Oyu. Our expedition left Kathmandu on August 29, hoping to climb both peaks by the normal routes and to film the ascents for Spanish television. We were Juanjo San Sebastián, Antonio Trabado, Ramón Portilla, Atxo Apellániz, José Carlos Tamayo, cameraman Antonio Perezgrueso and I as leader. We got to Chinese Base Camp and real Base Camp for Shisha Pangma at 4900 and 5500 meters on September 1 and 7. We established Camps I, II and III at 6300, 6900 and 7300 meters on September 9, 14 and 20. A period of bad weather followed, but on September 28 we left Base Camp and got to Camp III the next day, where we joined a French team. On September 30, San Sebastián, Trabado, Apellaniz and Tamayo climbed to the central summit of Shisha Pangma with Frenchmen LeHir, Lombard and Benoit. All used skis to 7000 meters on both the ascent and descent. On October 7, we left Base Camp for Tingri and on the 8th were at the Cho Oyu Base Camp at 4800 meters. We got to Advance Base on the Nangpa La at 5500 meters on October 11. We planned to climb Cho Oyu without fixed camps. We arrived at 6200 meters on the 13th but because of bad weather returned to Base Camp. San Sebastián, Trabado, Portilla and Apellániz bivouacked at 6800 and 7400 meters on October 17 and 18 and on the 19th climbed to the summit with much wind and cold. This was the second ascent of the peak for Apellániz. All four suffered some frostbitten noses, toes and fingers.

SEBASTIÁN ALVARO, *Televisión Española, Madrid, Spain*

Shisha Pangma Ascent and Tragedy. A 14-man Spanish Army expedition, led by Major Francisco Soria, also included several civilians. They were the only

group to reach the main summit of Shisha Pangma (8027 meters, 26,336 feet) in the post-monsoon season. Unlike the other groups, they followed the Chinese route in its entirety. On October 13, the summit was reached by Major Santaeufemia, Captain Francisco Gan, Sergeants Pedro Expósito and Francisco Pérez and civilians Miguel-Angel Vidal and Dr. Joan Martínez. During the descent they spent the first night at Camp III at 6900 meters. They set out from there the next day under blizzard conditions but soon tried to retrace their steps back to Camp III. They could not find their way and were forced to bivouac at about 6800 meters. By the following morning, October 15, Dr. Martínez had died of cold and exposure. The 33-year old victim had, together with Expósito, climbed Nanga Parbat in 1987 with another army expedition.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Shisha Pangma Attempt. The 19-member expedition which Simonson led established Base Camp at the end of the road at 16,280 feet on September 20. Yaks transported our gear the 13 miles to Advance Base at 18,300 feet, established on September 25. Simonson was forced to descend from Camp I on September 30 by cerebral edema. We made rapid progress over the next ten days, establishing Camps I, II, III and IV on the Chinese route at 19,050, 20,900, 22,500 and 23,000 feet. Greg Wilson, Jean Ellis, John Cederholm, Doug Hansen and John Rehmer occupied Camp III on October 4 and descended for a rest. They were relieved by Jeff Shropshire, Dan Holle, Gary Dietrich, Gayle Olcott and Richard Wright, who occupied Camp III on the 6th. The ferrying of loads across the four-kilometer-wide plateau between Camps III and IV was particularly arduous without skis. Exhausted, Dietrich and Olcott descended. The other three were encouraged to make a summit attempt on October 8, but wind discouraged them and they too descended. On October 9, a vicious storm hit. On October 12, a team of Greg Wilson, Jean Ellis, Doug Hansen, Alan Lamb and John Rehmer began to move back up, but on the night of the 13th they were hit by a second snowstorm, which dumped several feet of snow. Because of the avalanche danger, they retreated. The continuing high winds made us call it quits and we returned to Kathmandu on October 21.

ERIC SIMONSON AND JOHN CEDERHOLM

Shisha Pangma Post-Monsoon Attempts. Frenchman Marc Batard made a solo attempt on Shisha Pangma and reached 7500 meters on the normal route. This was actually more an acclimatization climb for his Everest ascent, which followed immediately. An Italian pair also did not succeed. Fabrizio De Francesco got to 7500 meters with the Spanish Television group on September 21. His companion had previously reached the site of Camp II at 6800 meters.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Zanser Kangri. Our joint Japanese-Tibetan expedition had Gonbu as Tibetan commander-in-chief and me as chief leader. It was a long way to Zanser Kangri which lies in northwest Tibet and we covered 3000 kilometers round-trip. We left Lhasa with seven vehicles on May 3 and traveled through Xigaze, Ngamring, Coqen and over a 5982-meter-high pass over the Transhimalaya. We got to Base Camp at 5200 meters on May 12. The mountain looked easy but the glacier was very badly crevassed. We set up Camps I and II at 5700 and 6000 meters on May 16 and 18. Thirteen climbers assembled at Camp II. Heavy snow fell during the night but a high wind blew the snow away. On May 19, Tibetans Sanzu, Akabu, Tsering Dorje, Lhapka, Tashi Tsering and Tansing Dorje and Japanese Tohru Komatsu, Hitoshi Nisida, Yoshito Yamamoto, Kimio Simizu, Takashi Itoh, Tomoaki Asayama and I reached the summit (6460 meters, 21,195 feet). After an hour on top, we all descended to Base Camp. The caravan took a different way back through Nyima, Baingoan, Nagqu and Damxung to Lhasa.

NOBUYOSHI TAMURA, *Nagano Mountaineering Association, Japan*

Gurla Mandhata (Naimona'nyi) Correction. In *AAJ, 1989*, on page 288, we published what appeared to be the second ascent of this mountain in 1987. The ascent described there was a *second* report of the *first* ascent of the peak, which actually took place in 1985 and was recorded in *AAJ, 1986*, page 302. The Editor regrets any confusion this double reporting may have caused. The 1990 ascent is indeed the second and not the third ascent.

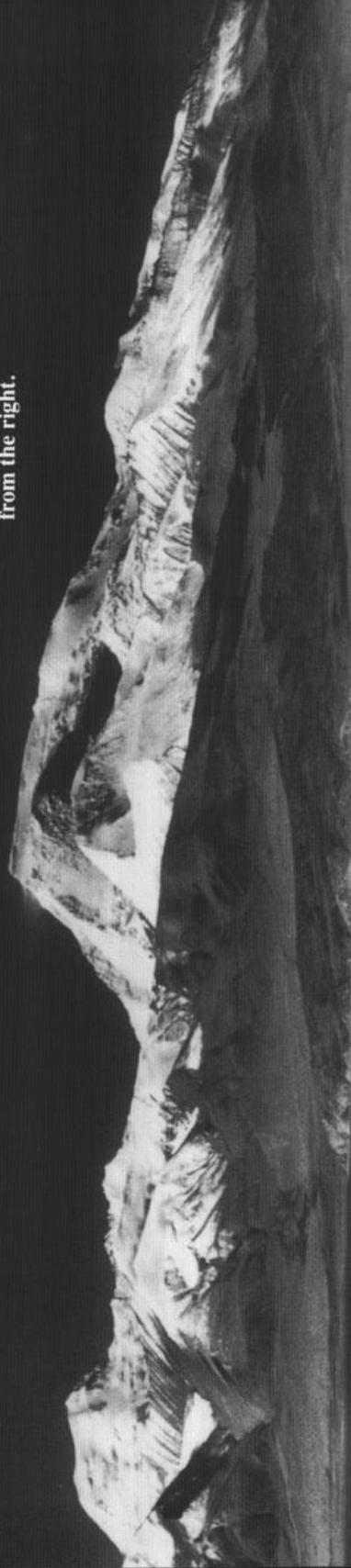
Gurla Mandhata (Naimona'nyi). Our expedition consisted of Hansruedi Staub, Paul Tschanz, Diego Wellig and me as leader. After long negotiations, the Chinese government allowed us to travel to China with our own vehicles so long as we should leave them without cost to them at the end of the expedition. We entered western China via the Kunjerab Pass from Pakistan and drove through Tibet to Lhasa. Our chief objective was to make the second ascent of Gurla Mandhata by its northern side. On September 29, we got to Base Camp above Lakes Manasarovar and Rakastar and below holy mountain Kailas. We placed Advance Base and Camps I and II at 5600, 6350 and 7000 meters. Despite clear weather, wind storms made life difficult. On October 11, Tschanz and Wellig reached the summit (7728 meters, 25,355 feet). In an open bivouac at 7300 meters during the descent, Wellig suffered severe frostbite. The difficulties of the climb are comparable to those of Shisha Pangma. Between Camp I and the summit wall, we used skis. This was a great advantage because of the many crevasses. We climbed the summit wall differently from the Sino-Japanese expedition and ascended 60° snow in the upper part.

MARKUS ITTEN, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

PLATE 66

Photo by Markus Jitten

GURLA MANDHATA seen over Lake
Manasarovar. Ascent route was up
from the right.



Western China

K2 from the North. A report on this American-Australian ascent of the north face of K2 appears as a full article earlier in this volume.

K2. A 12-man Japanese expedition led by Tomaji Ueki climbed the north-west face of K2. They established Base Camp at 5000 meters on June 7. They climbed the face below the Savoia Saddle and continued up the route pioneered from Pakistan in 1982 by the Poles, who did not reach the summit. This led diagonally up to the left. Camp IV was placed at 7650 meters. They then crossed into the north face and followed the 1982 Japanese route up the snowfield to the summit. On August 9, Hiroataka Imamura and Hideki Nazuka left Camp V at 7950 meters and climbed to the summit. More details and route photographs appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 143.

The Crown (Huang Guan Feng) Attempt and Tragedy. A Himalayan Association of Japan expedition, led by Hideo Tateno, attempted the Crown (7265 meters, 23,835 feet) by its southern face. The members were Hideo Tateno, Jasuhiro Hashimoto, Dr. Isao Suganuma, Juji Fukamata, Takeo Yanagisawa, Tsugoshi Sasaki and Hideo Masuka. They had established three camps, the highest at 5800 meters by September 24 and had climbed to 6400 meters on the southeast ridge. An accident occurred on September 27, seen by nobody. Tateno and Suganuma did not return to Base Camp when they were expected. They had been at Camp I. They reported all well by radio. They were to pick up one of the two tents at Advance Base at 4400 meters and carry it down to Base Camp. Later, during the search, it was determined that only one tent remained at Advance Base and so they had obviously passed below there. At 4:10 P.M. the Chinese liaison heard a great sound and saw flying snow. On the Skamri Glacier at 4300 meters, a search party the next day found highly compacted ice that was 120 meters wide, 300 meters long and one to two meters thick in an area where it had previously been possible to walk on the moraine. The search in the avalanche debris revealed nothing because it was impossible to dig in the dense ice. The attempt was abandoned.

Broad Peak Attempt. Sixteen Italians under the leadership of Arturo Bergamaschi had hoped to climb Broad Peak from the Chinese side. Unfortunately, they were unable even to get to the base of the mountain via the Shaksgam region. In June, high water prevented their crossing the Suruwat River near the Ilika oasis. One of their camel drivers and a camel drowned in the swollen river.

Moosh Mustagh, Kun Lun. Yuji Watanabe was the leader of 24 Japanese to Moosh Mustagh. They arrived at Base Camp at 4800 meters on July 28. Two camps were placed on the Mustagh Glacier and Camp III was occupied at 5860 meters on the east ridge on August 7. After a summit try on August 12 failed at

6230 meters, Camp IV was established at 6250 meters. On August 19, the leader and Yoshibumi Ishizawa climbed to the summit (6638 meters, 21,780 feet).

Xuelian Feng, Tien Shan. The Tokai Section of the Japanese Alpine Club sent its fourth expedition to attempt Xuelian Feng with me as leader. Expeditions in 1986, 1988 and 1989 had managed to find the route to the south side of the mountain and had in 1989 reached the 6450-meter Junction Peak, south of the main summit, but could not get to the highest point. In 1990, our party of 12 left Akusu on July 22 and made its way along the Muzaruto River and up the Akuchi Gorge. On July 25, we placed Base Camp at 3100 meters on the south side of the Karakume Glacier. It was 20 kilometers up the moraine of the glacier to Advance Base, established on July 29 at 4100 meters at the foot of the southeast ridge of Junction Peak. We made a relay camp at 4800 meters in the icefall on August 1. We fixed 500 meters of rope in a 60° ice-and-rock gully and placed Camp I at the top of the gully at 5250 meters on August 3. There was a snowfield, a 400-meter-high ice face and a 1½-kilometer-long snow-and-rock ridge to Camp II, which we pitched on August 7 at 5950 meters. We continued up the southeast ridge of Junction Peak, climbed a 70° gully and traversed the snow face to reach the main ridge between Junction Peak and the main summit, where we established Camp III at 6400 meters on August 11. There were great cornices on the north side of the ridge. Between that camp and the summit, there were about two kilometers of ridge with two rock peaks on it. On August 12, climbers from Camps II and III traversed on the south side below the cornices and reached the col. On the 13th, climbers from Camp III bypassed below the first rock peak. All descended to Advance Base. On August 18, Motochiro Fujita, Hideki Sakai, Mikio Suzuki, Etuo Nishikawa, Hiroshi Kojiri, Takuo Kato, Reiji Takahashi and I left Camps II and III and got to the high point. We fixed three ropes in a steep gully to reach the top of the second rock peak. After climbing frozen rock walls and an overhanging ice wall, we found ourselves on a large snow slope leading to the top. The snow was waist-deep and at ten P.M. we had to bivouac at 6500 meters in a snow cave. We reached the summit (6627 meters, 21,742 feet) the next day at 12:30 P.M.

KAZUO TUKUSHIMA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Tuomur or Pik Pobedy Attempt and Tragedy, Tien Shan. This 7439-meter (24,407-foot) peak, the highest in the Tien Shan, lies on the boundary between China and the Soviet Union. It is called Tuomur by the Chinese and Pik Pobedy by the Soviets. Its south face was attempted by a 14-member Japanese expedition led by Hidetsugu Nishibori. Nishibori, Makoto Inoue and Masahiko Ito established Camp III at 6300 meters on August 6 and the next day continued placing fixed ropes up to 6450 meters. Apparently they communicated by radio that night from Camp III, but nothing was ever heard later. The following day, two other members climbed to Camp III, which they found had been swept away by an avalanche.

USSR

Pik Lenina, Second Winter Ascent. Our expedition was led by Lenonid A. Troshchinenko and consisted of 24 people. Deputy leader was Aleksandr Glushkovski and I was leader of the support team. After leaving Leningrad on January 13, we arrived at Achiktash on the 19th and made Advance Base the next day on the glacier at 4200 meters. We followed the Arkin route on the center of the north face. Camps I and II were placed in snow holes at 5400 and 6100 meters on January 25 and 28. Up to 6900 meters we fixed the route with 4000 meters of rope. In the upper part we climbed the left side. The summit teams were made up of 11 men each. On February 3, Aleksey Koren and Semyon Yastrebov reached the summit (7134 meters, 23,406 feet). The rest were driven back by -35° C temperatures, storm and snowfall. The next day, the weather was better and nine gained the summit: Troshchinenko, Glushkovski, Aleksey Dorfeyev, Mikhail Mozhayev, Viktor Ivanov, Andrey Tsekoyev, Avoz Mirzuyev, Aleksey Gumyenuk and Petko Totev; the latter was a guest from Bulgaria. Both teams reached Base Camp on February 6. This was the second winter ascent of Pik Lenina, but we made a variant in the upper part. The first winter ascent was in 1988 (AAJ, 1989, p. 294.)

GEORGI SHCHEDRIN, *Klub Vysotnik, Leningrad, USSR*

Pik Lenina, Third Winter Ascent. In February, only a few days after the second winter ascent, an independently operating light-weight Moscow team made the third winter ascent of Pik Lenina. They used snow caves in crevasses at 4800, 5800 and 6100 meters along the Arkin route on the 3000-meter-high north face. Ropes fixed by the Leningrad expedition were used. On the summit day, they had to climb 1000 vertical meters. It was very cold and it stormed heavily, especially in the summit area. At 7000 meters, C. Chepchev had to withdraw because of developing frostbite. The other two, A. Brattsev and I. Razuvayev, reached the top at four P.M. The pair was back in their ice cave at 6100 meters late in the night. The completion of the ascent in wintry conditions by a small team of mountaineers is something new in Soviet expeditions practice.

JÓSEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Pik Lenina Tragedy and Attempt. Ken Nolan, Jean Aschenbrenner, Dan Smith, Canadian Ian McLagen and I attempted to climb Pik Lenina by the standard northwest ridge in July. We were participating in the Soviet International Mountaineering Camp in the Pamirs, held annually since 1974. Particularly cold and snowy weather prevented our departure from Base Camp. We finally occupied Camp I on July 13. That evening, an earthquake with its epicenter in Afghanistan dislodged séracs that swept Camp II. The resulting avalanche killed 43 of the 45 climbers in that camp, probably the greatest

number of fatalities in a single mountaineering accident in history. The dead included 23 members of the Leningrad Climbing Club led by Leonid Troshchenko, 4 other Soviets, 2 Swiss, 1 Spaniard, 6 Czechoslovaks, 3 Israelis and 1 Italian. The two survivors, a Russian and a Slovak, were helped down the following day. Another top Leningrad mountaineer, Vladimir Balyberdin, saved his life deciding at the last minute to move with some friends to Camp III. A group of six English climbers, led by Mark Miller, escaped by establishing their bivouac some distance from the main camp. Lengthy and dangerous rescue efforts failed to yield any other survivors. After several days, the Soviets again allowed attempts on the mountain. We occupied a relocated Camp II at the base of the ridge of Pik Razdelny at 5500 meters on July 18. Camp III on the saddle between Pik Razdelny and Lenina was reached on July 21. After two days of high winds and snow, the attempt was abandoned. The early season weather made climbing dangerous and took the lives of five more climbers while we were in the Pamirs.

CHARLES HUSS, M.D.

Elbrus Tragedy. From May 2 to 4, a terrible storm with high winds and frigid temperatures struck the highest peak of the Caucasus. Dozens of mountaineers and alpine skiers were caught in the summit area. About 20 climbers perished in the storm.

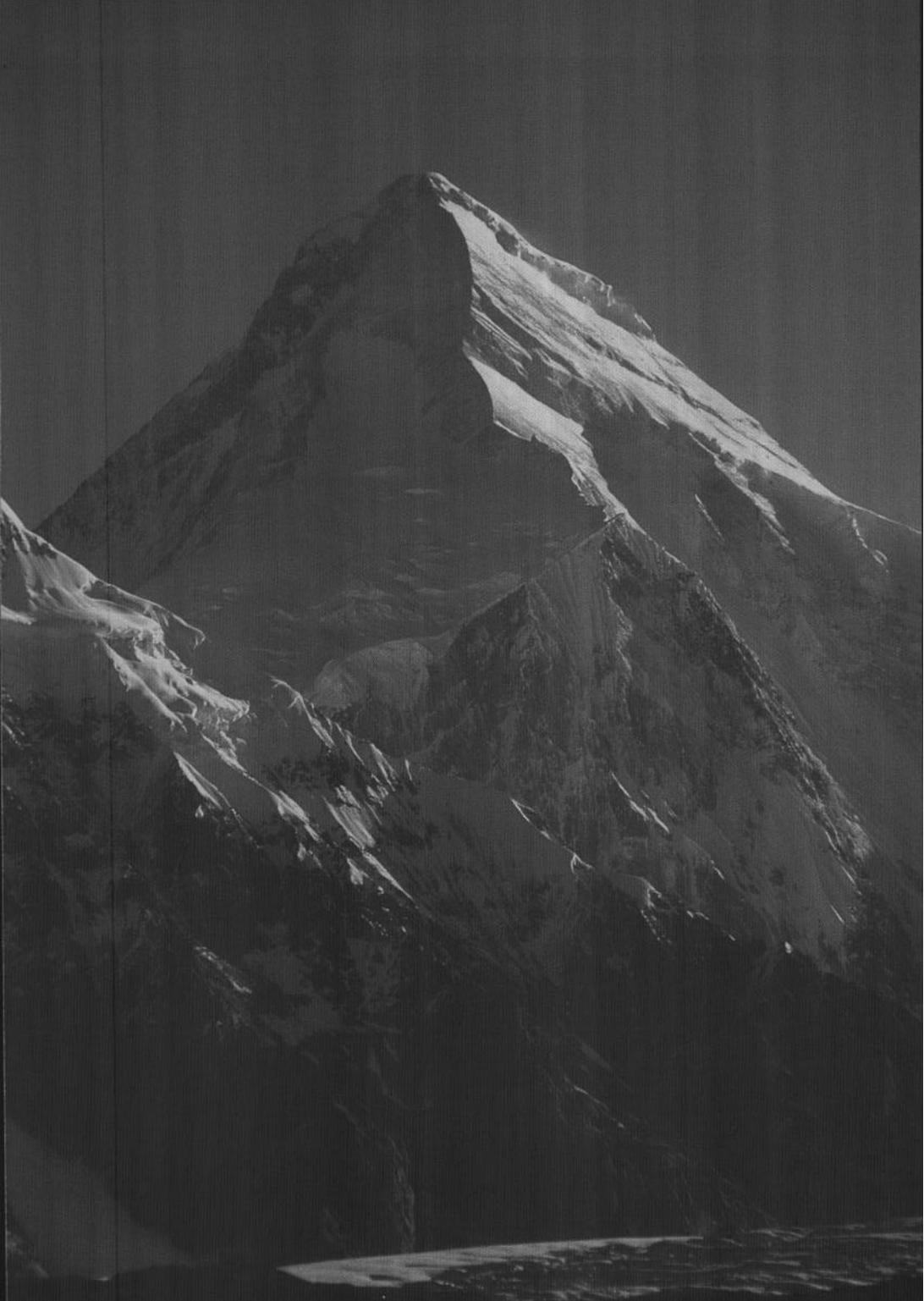
Pik Korzhnevskoy and Pik Kommunizma. From Moscow, Tom Dyer, Ed Hirschowitz, Matt Koehler, Dave Rhude, Peter Stock and I on July 12 endured a four-hour flight and an eight-hour bus ride to the Achik Tash Base Camp. We left Achik Tash on July 14 by helicopter for the Moskvin Base Camp. Before leaving, we learned of the sérac fall on Pik Lenina which killed 40 climbers. On July 19, we started up Pik Korzhnevskoy (7105 meters, 23,3110 feet), establishing camps at 4700, 6100 and 6300 meters. Unfortunately Hirschowitz was stricken with cerebral edema at Camp III on July 23 and descended with Koehler and Stock to Camp I. On July 24, Dyer, Rhude and I left Camp IV for the summit at ten A.M. via the south ridge (Tsetlin's route). We summited around three o'clock. We descended to Camp I on the 25th and met Stock and Koehler on the way up. Shortly thereafter, Koehler lost peripheral vision and developed double vision, forcing him to turn back. Stock then teamed up with a Frenchman and summited on July 27. On July 28, I left with three Swedes, Jerker Fredholm, Lars Cronlund and Rickard Strand, for Pik Kommunizma (7483 meters, 24,550 feet). Following Borodkin's route from the northeast, we established camps at 5800, 6600 and 6900 meters, the last on the summit of Dushanbe on July 31 on July 31. On August 1, Fredholm, Cronlund, Strand and I summited on Pik Kommunizma in shirt-sleeve weather and descended to the Pamir Ice Plateau at 6100 meters and the following day to the Moskvin Base Camp.

LARRY G. HALL

Peaks in Pik Kommunizma Area. Between July 15 and August 12, Ace Kvale and I climbed in the Pik Kommunizma area of the Pamirs. We arrived in the Moskvina Base Camp by helicopter four days after leaving Paris. After a brief period of acclimatization, I climbed a new route on the north face of Pik Vorobyova (5440 meters, 17,848 feet). The 800-meter-high route is mainly on 45° to 90°+ ice and is threatened by two separate sérac bands. I followed a large couloir directly below the summit and passed the final rockband by way of a six-meter column of water ice. Next Kvale and I confronted Pik Fourth (6300 meters, 20,670 feet), which we climbed by the normal route on the second try, having been turned back the first time 200 meters from the top by bad snow conditions. I attempted solo a new 1800-meter high, "thoroughly modern" ice route on the north face of Pik Kommunizma. I climbed quickly through the first rockbands to find the magic line of water ice was nothing more than a curtain of powder snow plastered onto vertical and overhanging rock. I retreated to Base Camp with two rappels and 600 meters of down-climbing. Two days later, Kvale started up the Borodkin Pillar of Pik Kommunizma with four Russians. After eight hours of climbing, he set up his tent at 6100 meters, while the Soviets continued to 6500 meters; two summited the following day and descended all the way to Base Camp. Meanwhile, I left Base Camp at two A.M. and walked to the bottom of Pik Kommunizma's north face again. I started up the Czech route at four A.M. The route is steep for only the first 1800 meters; I climbed on sustained 55° hard water ice, passing a 150-meter crux of 70° to 75° ice with a critical section of 35 meters where the ice was less than an inch thick. I arrived at the plateau at ten A.M. and at Kvale's tent a half hour later. He had planned to spend the day there resting. We set out for the summit the next morning. Kvale turned back at 7200 meters, having surpassed his altitude record by 1200 meters because of fatigue and on-coming bad weather. I reached the summit at five P.M. and after five minutes began the descent. In a half an hour it began to snow and blow. With reduced visibility, I got back to the 6100-meter bivouac at eight P.M. The next day we descended the Borodkin Pillar.

MARC FRANCIS TWIGHT

Ak-Su, Pamir-Alay, Turkestan Range. The members of our expedition were Christopher Watts, Caradse Jones, Jeremy Gore, Nicola Dugan, Siobhan Sheridan and I. Watts and I made a new line on the north face of Ak-Su (5355 meters, 17,569 feet) on June 29 and 30. The northwest buttress lies on the left side of a deep avalanche-prone gully which forms the west side of the north face of Ak-Su. The lower part of the buttress is dominated by a huge pinnacle which we bypassed on the right. From a bivouac on the col between the pinnacle and the main wall, the route continued on smooth granite walls to gain the northwest ridge, which we followed to the summit of Rocky Ak-Su (5217 meters, 17,116 feet). The main summit was then gained via the connecting ridge. Jones and Gore attempted a direct line up the center of the north face of Ak-Su but retreated after Gore was hit by stonefall. They also attempted the south ridge but retreated



COLOR PLATE 10

Photo by Alex Bertulis

KHAN TENGRI, Tien Shan.

in bad weather. Dugan and Sheridan explored the area by mountain bike. Although the terrain was really too rough for biking, three valleys were visited and several unclimbed mountains seen.

MICHAEL FOWLER, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Pik Pobedy in Winter. A full article on this climb appears earlier in this volume.

Tien Shan Traverse. From August 6 to 20, a Soviet team from Kazakhstan of previous Everest and Kangchenjunga expeditions made an astonishing alpine-style traverse of the twelve highest summits of the Central Tien Shan. They spent 15 days on the high ridges, almost entirely above 6000 meters and covering 77 kilometers in distance. The traverse was conceived and led by Valeri Khrishchaty of Alma Ata, who had climbed Everest in 1982 and traversed Kangchenjunga in 1989. In February of 1990, he led the successful winter ascent of Pik Pobedy. The great traverse began from Pik Vazho Pshavela (6918 meters, 22,698 feet). It included Pik Pobedy (7439 meters, 24,374 feet), Pik Sovetskoy Armenii (6900 meters, 22,638 feet), Pik Pobedy East (7030 meters, 23,065 feet), Pik Topografov (6873, 22,550 feet), Pik Druzhby (6800 meters, 22,310 feet), Shatyor (6700 meters, 21,982 feet) and ended on Khan Tengri (6995 meters, 22,949 feet). One of the six had to quit because of frostbite. Perhaps the most difficult section was a 12-kilometer traverse over Shatyor in 90 centimeters of snow. Much was done in harsh weather conditions. The successful climbers were leader Khrishchaty, Zinur Khalitov, Grigori Lunyakov, Murat Galiev and Andrei Tselishchev. Tragically, the first three were killed in October on Manaslu.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor Tatarnik, Poland*

Khan Tengri and Pik Goodmana, Tien Shan. During the summer of 1990, the second American-Lithuanian mountaineering exchange took place. At the invitation of the Lithuanian Mountaineering Federation, four Americans arrived in Vilnius on July 19. With ten Lithuanian climbers we flew to Alma Ata and drove by bus to the international camp at Kar-Kara, near the Chinese frontier. From there, it is a 45-minute flight by helicopter to the principal Base Camp on the South Engilchek Glacier. To the south is Pik Pobedy and to the east, lofty Khan Tengri (6995 meters, 22,949 feet), one of the most perfect mountains ever designed by the hand of God. Khan Tengri offers no easy routes up its steep faces and sharp ridges. It towers 9000 feet above the surrounding glacier. This area was opened to foreign climbers in 1989. Expeditions were there from Japan, Germany, Austria, USA, Italy, England and most eastern European countries. The most popular route was the west buttress. After a three-hour hike up the glacier to an encampment, the route climbs steeply up the avalanche-threatened



PLATE 67

Photo by Alex Bertulis

**West Face of PIK GOODMAN,
Tien Shan.**

Semenovsky Glacier to the snowy 5800-meter saddle between Khan Tengri and its westerly neighbor Pik Chapaeva. Near the col is a safe campsite. The summit is a long day's effort from here. After two weeks of acclimatization tours, six of us reached the bivouac ledge but were tied down by storm for the next three days and retired. A second attempt by Edvardas Pundzius and me was repulsed by weather. Valdas Bagdonas, Valdas Usas and Eddie Ragauskas reached the summit a few days later. The next day, Dainius Makauskas (who died tragically on Dhaulagiri in October) and I made our bid for the top. At 6300 meters, the icy wind turned me back, but Makauskas proceeded to the top in harsh conditions. After new storms, on August 16 a fifth and final summit attempt was made by Lithuanians Freddie Luksas, Vidmantas Paulauskas, Americans Bruno Reinsys, Eric Kasulis and me. This time the mountain was kind and we reached the summit with numerous other climbers. When we had first arrived at Base Camp, we missed seeing some of the "small" peaks. Before Khan Tengri, Charly Hampson and I were looking for an acclimatization climb. We learned of a "little" mountain east of Khan Tengri, the west peak of Pik Goodmana (6637 meters, 21,775 feet), which was probably unclimbed. We enlisted Pundzius to climb the attractive 6000-foot-high west face in a three-day effort. It took us two days to reach the foot of the face. We set off from a frigid bivouac in the night. By dawn on August 5, we were astonished to see that we had climbed less than half the face. There were 43 pitches to climb before we reached the summit (which is probably 6500 meters or 21,326 feet) and made 43 rappels to reach the broken glacier at the foot. We settled down for another cold bivouac. Finally on the fifth day of our "three-day" trip we returned to Base Camp with great respect for the "little" mountains of the Tien Shan.

ALEX BERTULIS

Khan Tengri and Pik Pobedy, Tien Shan. This region has only recently been open to foreigners. There were three Japanese parties that climbed Khan Tengri (6995 meters, 22,950 feet): five of the Japanese Workers Mountain Federation led by K. Kondo, two of the Shinshu University Alpine Club led by M. Watanabe and two by the Gakujin Club led by H. Furuya. The summit was reached by the west ridge on July 31, August 3 and 14. Most attempts on Pik Pobedy (7439 meters, 24,407 feet) failed. Two groups of Italians apparently were in the region. One party from Aquila first climbed Khan Tengri, where they placed camps at 4300, 5200 and 6000 meters on the normal west ridge. The summit was reached by Giampaolo Gioia on August 1 and Roberto Mancini and Gianfranco Poccia on August 8. Gioia then joined seven Soviets who in seven days with six camps climbed Pik Pobedy, gaining the summit on August 11. Other Italians were given permission to attempt Pik Pobedy, but the weather prevented that. They then turned to Khan Tengri whose summit was reached on August 13 by Mauro Dell'Amico and the next day by Pierluigi Dall'Aglio.

Khan Tengri Winter Attempt, Tien Shan, 1990-1. Americans Ace Kvala, John Faulkner and I, Frenchman Michel Fauquet and a strong team of eight

Soviets led by Anatoly Mochnikov and Alexei Shustrov hoped to make the first winter ascent of Khan Tengri. We attempted the north face of Trident Peak (5200 meters, 17,061 feet) but turned back at nightfall after 15 pitches of hard mixed climbing with a -30°C temperature and no bivouac gear. Our attempt on the south face of Khan Tengri failed also. We left the 4100-meter Base Camp at one P.M., skied the 8 kilometers to the face and rested until seven P.M. We climbed continuously through the night as the temperature descended to -35°C and séracs fell three separate times, one missing us by a very narrow margin. After climbing 700 meters of hard, black ice and frightening dashes through the séracs, we turned back at 5700 meters because of high winds and no available bivouac spot on the 55° ice slope for another 500 meters. Because of days lost to bad weather, we had run out of time. Our helicopter was six days late in coming to retrieve us. During that time, Shustrov and I tried the normal route. Having left Base Camp at five P.M., we climbed through the night but turned back at 6200 meters at five A.M. In all, we had only three out of 30 days when the wind would have been calm enough to climb to the top. The cold was impressive. Combined with the isolation—it is 250 air miles to the nearest village—it was too risky to push to do a new route in winter.

MARC FRANCIS TWIGHT

