leadership visited southwest Greenland from July 26 to August 23. The members were senior boys from schools, undergraduates and young men from industry and so the age-range was from 17 to 22. We set up Base Camp about 30 miles inland from Narssarsuup airfield. Two previous Brathay expeditions have been to this area in 1967 and 1969 to make plane-table surveys of three glaciers, two of which are advancing, whilst the other is stagnating. This year we used tellurometers to set up an accurate grid for the mapping, levelled profiles and cross-sections on Ostgletscher, took ablation readings, carried out an intensive micrometeorological programme, extended geological bedrock mapping east of Lake Hulet, brought back oriented samples of pre-Cambrian rocks to investigate their remnant magnetism and collected botanical specimens. Although the main aim was scientific, we climbed a number of peaks, probably first ascents. One, just southeast of Ostgletscher, overlooks the huge Qorqup Sermia Glacier where it leaves the icecap. Fourteen of us reached the top. On the Danish 1:100,000 map it is marked as 1820 meters (5971 feet) but we took sensitive digital barometers up with us and made it 1907 meters. A clinometer shot on another peak to the north of Ostgletscher, marked as 1810 meters, showed that it was in fact slightly higher, confirming the opinion of Alan Wright, who climbed it with Mike Robinson and Nick Evans. A party of six, led by Mungo Ross, climbed the nunatak (1520 meters or 4987 feet) in the center of the Ostgletscher basin, where scree on the sharp ridges was delicately poised at the steepest angle of slope.

W. S. JENKINS, Brathay Exploration Group, England

Sermilik Fjord, Southwest Greenland. On May 10, 1971 our Tyrolean Greenland Expedition set out from Nanortalik by chartered boat for four unclimbed-in ranges on the western shore of Sermilik Fjord, 50 miles away. We were Peter Tataitz, Arthur Haid, Hans Penz, Toni Raich, Alfons Bertsch, Dr. Fritz Geiger and I as leader. On May 28 the polar storms stopped and we could begin the reconnaissance. We managed to make 34 first ascents, although interrupted by bad weather. Though Base Camp was at 165 feet above the sea, climbing difficulties began only at 2000 feet. The walls were mostly between 3000 and 4500 feet high and the summits ranged from 5250 and 7225 feet. Generally ice conditions were poor and the granite rotten. There were difficulties up to UIAA Grade V. In three weeks we had only twelve climbing days. We established no high camps but we did bivouac.

ARNOLD LARCHER, Österreichischer Alpenverein

American Arctic Greenland Expedition. Our expedition operated in two groups: the Inland Ice Traverse party of Don G. Stevens and me and the Mountain party of John A. Wakefield, Bruce A. Sloan and
Roger M. Singer. The Inland Ice Traverse party attempted to make the first American ski crossing of the Inland Icecap. The proposed route was from Søndre Stromfjord Air Force Base to Angmassalik, some 375 miles. We covered about a third of the traverse before a retreat was forced due to time lost by extremely rough ice and bad weather. The west coast of the icecap in the Søndre Stromfjord area was very difficult to ascend. We were in the field from May 29 to July 12. The Mountain party sledded and skied some 70 miles over the Knud Rasmussen, Haabits, Connant and de France glaciers to the Mount Forel district. Two unsuccessful attempts were made on unclimbed P 3090 (10,138 feet).

**DENNIS G. MCALLISTER, University of New Hampshire**

**Kugssuatsiaq, South Greenland.** The Leicester Polytechnic Students' Greenland Expedition arrived in Nanortalik on July 11, travelling by air from Glasgow and by coastal ferry from Narssarsuaq. On July 19 we sailed overnight by fishing boat to the valley of Kugssuatsiaq, which runs north to south at the head of Søndre Sermilik. By July 23 Base Camp was established 1½ miles up the valley. We split into two groups of five, one group climbing and the other carrying out ecological work. The mountaineering centered around four areas. In all, 20 summits were reached, ten of which were first ascents. The rock was mainly very loose and dangerous. The first area was situated around three small glaciers southwest of Base Camp. Following this, a week was spent climbing west of Base Camp. There Mick Davis, Graham Hudson, Ian Lambert and I made the second ascent of Kugssuatsiaup Qaqâ (1680 meters or 5512 feet) on August 2. On August 7 an advanced camp was established at the head of the valley. During the ensuing two weeks most of the first ascents were made, culminating in P 1950 (6398 feet), a very remote peak north of Base Camp climbed on August 17 by Peter Meads, Lambert and me. Finally the climbing party moved by rubber dinghy to a new valley base to the east of Kugssup Qaqa and spent two frustrating weeks sitting out a period of stormy weather.

**ANDREW BARBIER, Leicester Polytechnic Caving and Mountaineering Club**

**MEXICO**

*El Gran Trono Blanco, East Face (Direct), Sierra Juárez.* On December 27 to 29, Isabelle and Henri Agresti and Larry Gorbet climbed a new route on this 1600-foot face in Baja California. The route went almost all free, and the rock was excellent. Ledges were frequent and natural protection was more the rule than exception, so that only 40 pitons, nuts, and wedges were placed in 20 pitches, with 22 placed on the two aid pitches.