

*Gangchen.* An eight-man Japanese expedition led by Tohru Shibazaki made the first ascent of Gangchen (21,200 feet). Base Camp was set up on June 24 at 14,375 feet on the Hoh-Lungma Glacier, west of the peak. Camp I at 15,900 feet was placed on June 29 higher on the glacier. The original plan had been to climb the ice slopes to the Gangchen-Hikmul col, but that was threatened by avalanches. They climbed instead the rock spur north of the ice slopes to the col. The rock was very difficult and it took three weeks to prepare and fix the 3000 feet. Camp III was placed on the col at 19,450 feet on July 29. On July 30 Koji Sasaki, Yasutaka Kanamori and Ryoichi Shikama climbed past four false tops along the north snow ridge to the summit at the southern end. The next day they were followed by Ka. Sasaki, S. Takahashi and K. Mizaki. The expedition also reconnoitered Susbun Brakk. (Information from *Iwa To Yuki* of February, 1979.)

*Spantik, Southeast Ridge.* Our expedition, consisting of Yoshiharu Murata, leader, M. Kamei, H. Shibata, Y. Shiro, M. Sakai and me, established Base Camp at the junction (14,350 feet) of the Chogolungma Glacier and its Basin Glacier on July 11. We used the Basin Glacier with its few crevasses as a route to the southeast ridge. The weather alternated from fine one week to rainy the next. We established Camp I on the glacier at 15,550 feet, Camp II at P 5670 (18,603 feet) on the southeast ridge and Camp III beyond prominent snow P 6340 (20,801 feet) on July 17, 29 and August 5 respectively. Kamei and Sakai set out on August 6 to establish Camp IV but the crusted snow on the plateau helped them so much that they went on to the summit (23,055 feet). They returned again to the top on the 7th and were followed on August 8 by Shibata and Shiro and on the 9th by Murata and me. Our route was safe except for a small icefall at the entrance of the Basin Glacier and some avalanche threats on the way to Camp III.

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*Spantik, South Ridge.* The members of our party were Shigeru Nakamura, climbing leader, Dr. Takeshi Nonaka, Dr. Isao Satou, Masaharu Mikami, Shuetsu Yamamoto, Yoshiyuki Takenami and I as leader. We established the following camps on the unclimbed south ridge: Base Camp at 13,775 feet on June 27, Camp I at 15,200 feet on July 12, Temporary Camp II at 17,625 feet on July 19, Camp II at 18,850 feet on July 29 and Camp III at 19,825 feet on August 7. On August 8 Shigeru Nakamura and Shuetsu Yamamoto climbed to the summit (23,055 feet), crossing near the top to the southeast ridge. The other Japanese party which climbed Spantik this year took the whole southeast ridge. Our route had much avalanche danger.

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