

May 5 and 6, the second on May 7 and 8. On May 11 Ryoichi Fukada, Seiichi Kawamura, Shomi Suzuki, Sherpa Ang Phurba and I set out from Base Camp and reached Camp IV on May 13. We left on May 14 at five A.M., unroped up the 800 feet of fixed rope in the snow couloir above Camp IV. Each led a pitch in turn in the knee-deep snow. At last we reached the summit at 4:15 P.M. Only the summits of Yalung Kang and the central and south peaks of Kanchenjunga could be seen above the clouds. We returned to Camp IV at 7:50 in heavy snowfall. On May 17 Konishi, Motumo Ohmiya, Dr. Toshitaka Sakano, and Sherpas Pemba Tsering and Dawa Norbu set out from Camp IV at 3:30 A.M. Dawa Norbu led all the way to the top in knee-deep snow. Four climbers reached the summit at 5:40 P.M. Konishi had to turn back at 27,500 feet, still some 700 feet below the summit. They were all back in Camp IV at ten P.M. We cleaned the face of ropes, pegs and tents in the next two days. We evacuated Base Camp on May 25.

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Kanchenjunga, via First-Ascent Route. Our 20-person expedition left Munich for Kathmandu on March 9 but had delays caused by customs on the Indian frontier, final permission difficulties, a shortage of motor transport and a lack of porters. The two-week march to Base Camp had to be done in several groups. In the Yalung Valley we followed the glacier to Base Camp. Every afternoon there it stormed with snow showers. Finally on April 29 Camp II was well established and several tents were up at Camp III at 23,000 feet. The material for Camp IV was being carried up despite deep snow, which led to making various depots at different heights. On May 6 the Swiss Marti and Germans Franz Oppurg, Giri Göbl and Georg Ritter returned from Camp IV sick from a respiratory virus. We saw that the summit could be reached only if we made more use of the Sherpas. Many supplies were still lacking at Camp IV. On May 12 Ritter, Göbl and Oppurg reached Camp II with two Sherpas. On May 14 the three sahibs and five Sherpas started from Camp IV. Only Ritter, Ang Tsangbu, Nima Dorje and Lhakpa Gyalbu reached the camp. These four left for the summit at 6:15 A.M. on May 15. After leaving the ramp, they climbed the 40° snow couloir toward the summit ridge, unroped to save time. At 11:30 they left the broad snow gully still 1300 feet below the summit. Following the British route of 1955, they climbed a snow strip upwards on the south side of the summit cone. Above the strip, they had to make a delicate 500-foot-long traverse to a difficult 20-foot crack, which gave access to the summit ridge. At 1:50 P.M. Lhakpa Gyalbu, followed by Ritter and Nima Dorje, reached the summit (8598 meters, 28,208 feet). They found tracks from the Japanese who had climbed to the top the day before from the north and a flag from the Indians in 1977. As the three descended, they found

Ang Tsangbu, who had been climbing without oxygen, waiting 250 feet below the summit. In three more hours they were all back at Camp IV.

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Yalungkang Tragedy. A nine-man Mexican expedition was led by José Manuel Casanova. They were on the south-face route of the Austro-German expedition of 1975. They established four high camps. Hugo Saldana and Alfonso Medina never returned from their summit bid, in which Chawang Rinze Sherpa also participated. All these men reached 27,500 feet. The Sherpa turned back because of freezing fingers. He reports he heard Saldana shout that he was on the summit. Medina was trying to go to the top, but the Sherpa doubts he succeeded. Neither Mexican was ever seen again.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

Makalu Attempt, Makalu II Ascent. Makalu, the world's fifth highest peak, has had 14 ascents since the first by the French in 1955. Our expedition was fortunate not to have any other expedition on the mountain and we were able to choose our route after a thorough reconnaissance. To acclimatize we were given permission to climb a number of minor summits and also 25,066-foot (7640-meter) Kangchungtse, also known as Makalu II. Roger Baxter-Jones, Georges Bettembourg, Ariane Giobellina and I on September 6 flew to Tumlingtar and reached Base Camp at 15,750 feet on the 16th after a wet, leech-infested walk in the late monsoon season. Between September 18 and 28 we established High Base Camp at 17,725 feet on a bend where the Chago Glacier meets the Barun. From there we climbed P 6170 (20,243 feet), P 6250 (20,506 feet), P 6350 (20,834 feet) and a southern peak of Chago at 6600 meters (21,654 feet). We left High Base Camp for Kangchungtse on October 1 and camped at 19,000 feet on the medial moraine of the Chago Glacier. Camp II was at 21,000 feet where unfortunately Ariane was forced by a severe throat infection to descend. After escorting her down to the moraine, that same afternoon, October 3, we three pushed camp to 22,000 feet. The next day we broke trail to the Makalu La (24,275 feet), with Georges laboriously pulling his skis behind. On October 5 we climbed a 60° gully west of the ordinary route and reached the heavily corniced summit ridge. We scrambled along the airy ½-mile ridge to the 25,066-foot summit. Georges had left his skis at the south end of the ridge and from there skied down difficult snow on the eastern side and around to the Makalu La, where we had a second very windy night. On October 6 we descended to Base Camp. We decided on attempting a traverse of