cracked ribs, Kim behind, with broken ribs and two cracked vertebrae, Jonathan next to me with, apparently, a broken neck. I was somehow only bruised. Jonathan died in a half hour. We evacuated Yvon and Kim, but it was a long ordeal, especially for Kim. He found strength, with an esolite pad wrapped tightly around his chest, to walk much of the distance back to Liu Baxiang; he was carried, or rode a horse, the rest of the way. Jonathan, who was 28, is survived by his wife, Geri, and a beautiful two-year-old daughter, Asia, namesake of his home away from home.

**Rick Ridgeway**

*Kongur Reconnaissance, Sinkiang (Xinjiang), Western China.* Mike Ward, Al Rouse and I flew to Urumchi, accompanied by our liaison officer, Liu Da Yi. After a visit to the Heavenly Lake in the Tien Shan Mountains, we left Urumchi on June 7 and flew to Kashgar. On June 10 we left Kashgar by road and travelled south through several oases on the western rim of the great Takla Makan Desert that occupies the Tarim Basin to the Karakul Lakes. Immediately to the south lay Mustagh Ata and to the north Kongur (7719 meters, 25,325 feet) and its satellite Kongur Tiubie (7595 meters, 24,920 feet). We rested here for two days before hiring yaks to transport our baggage to Base Camp below the southwest slopes of Kongur. We established camp at 14,500 feet on the west side of the extensive Koksel Glacier. We determined to investigate the mountains to the southeast to obtain views of the upper part of the complex massif. Taking a week's food, we crossed the Koksel and in three days reached an 18,000-foot col. Two days later Rouse and I made the first ascent of "Sarakyaguqi Peak" (20,400 feet; named by us after the nomadic settlement at the bottom of the valley) by its north ridge. Returning to Base Camp, Rouse tripped and broke his ankle while crossing easy slopes. Unable to move, he and Mike spent three hungry days while I returned to Base Camp to arrange animal transport. In attempting to cross the Konsiver River with Liu Da Yi, we were swept away and nearly drowned. By a strange mixture of camel, yak and donkey, the whole party was able to return to Base Camp on June 24. On June 27 Ward and I decided to explore the head of the Koksel Glacier. After passing through a heavily crevassed region, we emerged into an extensive snow basin and established camp at 18,150 feet on the 28th. The following day we reached the Koksel Col at 19,000 feet. We concluded that there was a feasible route to the summit of Kongur from the Koksel Glacier. The spur, descending from the main Kongur-Kongur Tiubie ridge and some three miles west of Kongur, appeared to offer a relatively safe approach to the ridge at 23,000 feet. From the Karakol Lakes we drove to Gez on the north side of Kongur to continue our reconnaissance. Ward and I climbed several thousand feet up a hillside north of Gez to get a good overall view of the north side of Kongur as well as the Kongur-
Kongur Tiubie ridge. We left Gez on July 7 using camels for transport and the following day established a Base Camp by the Kirghiz summer village of Tugnuk Kunush at 12,500 feet. Ward and I made the first ascent of Karatash Peak (17,850 feet), north of Kongur, on July 11. The north side has a possible but difficult route, clearly more problematic than that on the south. We left Gez for Kashgar on July 20, having decided to attempt Kongur next year from the southwest via the Koksel Glacier.

CHRISTIAN BONINGTON

USSR

Soviet Climbs in the Pamir, 1979. Despite generally bad weather in the Pamir in the summer of 1979, a great many remarkable new climbs were made. A Moscow group, V. Neverotin, V. Boshukov, B. Ermakov, V. Putrin and V. Puchkov, from July 21 to 31, 1979 climbed the previously much attempted 6750-foot-high southwest face of the west shoulder of Pik Kommunizma (7482 meters, 24,648 feet) from the Beliaev Glacier. They placed 164 rock and 23 ice pitons. Pik Moskova (6785 meters, 22,260 feet) was climbed by its 8200-foot southeast face from August 12 to 19 by seven Georgians led by O. Khazaradze. A 1000-foot icefall led to a 3500-foot 60° ice slope. Above this rose a steep rock face, the last 1000 feet of which were nearly vertical. They placed 152 rock and 46 ice pitons and five bolts. Ten climbers from Alma Ata, led by E. Ilyinski, climbed the 6250-foot southwest face of Pik Rossiya (6825 meters, 22,392 feet). They were on the face from July 31 to August 9 but had to halt for three days because of a storm. Two new routes were done on Pik Abalakov (6446 meters, 21,149 feet): the 7500-foot north face from July 27 to August 1 by four climbers from Moscow led by W. Kavunenko and the 7350-foot northwest face from July 31 to August 5. The second group placed 206 rock and 14 ice pitons. Three routes were done on Pik Revolution (6974 meters, 22,881 feet). From July 25 to August 4 eight climbers from Leningrad, led by D. Tchunovkin, climbed the 5250-foot north face. They had to wait out a four-day storm in the upper part of the wall. The 5000-foot northwest face was climbed from July 29 to August 4 by Ukrainians V. Tchrevko, V. Palamarchuk, M. Masorchuk, V. Foresetian, V. Golovenko and A. Trazevich. From July 28 to August 5 five climbers from Tashkent, led by A. Putizev, climbed the 2400-foot north-northwest face, largely on aid, placing 200 pitons and 14 bolts. In the Darva Range the 6400-foot north face of Pik Arnavad (6083 meters, 19,958 feet) was ascended by five climbers from Tadzhikistan, led by O. Kapitanov, from August 3 to 12. They placed 179 rock and 134 ice pitons. During 15 days at the end of July eight climbers from Kazakhstan, led by W. Sedelnikov, climbed the 5000-foot southeast face of Pik Komakademiya (6439 meters, 22,126 feet).