

Jongsang Peak (7473 meters). It is much higher than the Outlier (7090 meters). Our opinion is that Omi Kangri is about 7400 meters (24,279 feet).

TOSHIO KANEKO, *Tokyo Metropolitan Government Alpine Club*

*Jannu, North Face Attempt.* Unfortunately we did not succeed on the north face of Jannu (Kumbhakarna) in spite of eight weeks on the mountain. We stopped at 23,300 feet, still three days from the summit as we calculate it. It was the most moving experience I have ever had in the Himalaya because of the harshness of the wall. None of us had ever seen such a cold, steep face. In October there was no sun at all except for three to four hours a day at Camp I. The last 3000 feet were like the Cima Ovest's north face in the Dolomites with much overhanging in the last 1500 feet. When we discovered how smooth this part of the face was, we headed for the northeast ridge, which we would have reached at 24,000 feet. We were unlucky. First, Patrick Benhault left us at the beginning, judging the face too harsh. Our two Sherpas couldn't carry beyond 21,000 feet and we five remaining climbers had to carry everything. This year the weather in October was very bad. A meter of snow fell on Camp I on October 20. All camps were destroyed. I tried to solo to the ridge on October 26. Because there were no more camps on the mountain at that time, the liaison officer forbade the expedition to continue and I had to come down.

PIERRE BEGHIN, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

*Makalu, Solo Winter Attempt.* Frenchman Ivan Ghirardini attempted first the very difficult west buttress of Makalu in winter. After a first sortie, on January 7 he bivouacked at 19,350 feet and on January 8 at 22,000 feet. On January 9 he reached 23,000 feet, but the wind and cold were so severe that he had to give up, despite good climbing conditions. He estimated winds to be up to 125 mph and temperatures down to  $-50^{\circ}$ . He then turned to the normal route before being turned back again at 23,000 feet by the severity of the weather.

*Makalu, Southeast Ridge to East Face.* Our sixteen-member expedition, which included scientists and three reporters, made a new route variation on Makalu. The leader was Ham Tak-Young. Because of customs delays in Calcutta, we did not set out from Tumlingtar until March 16. The advance party reached Base Camp on March 30. On April 2 they set off preparing the route up the icefall and established Camp I at 17,725 feet on the 5th and Camp II at 19,350 feet on the 8th. The main party got to Base Camp on April 10. Camp III was established at 21,925 feet on April 15. We pitched Camp IV at 23,625 feet. Just below the Black Gendarme was a steep, avalanche-prone slope but we managed to set up Camp V at 24,275 feet there. We left the Japanese route there and went out onto the east face. On May 19 we established Camp VI at 25,250 feet on the upper part of the east glacier, chiseled out of the steep ice. Young Ho-Huh and Sherpas Pasang Norbu and Ang Phurba set out at 4:30

A.M. on May 20 and reached the summit (8481 meters, 27,825 feet) at two P.M. They found a plastic toy on top which had been left there in October 1981 by the solo Polish climber Kukuczka. They had climbed the very steep east face directly toward the summit onto mixed terrain and then onto the sharp rocky east ridge. There was a needlelike summit just before the real summit. Young and Ang Phurba used artificial oxygen on the ascent only. On the descent one of the Sherpas slipped and they all fell 350 feet but fortunately no one was injured. Our route was shorter and quicker than the Japanese route. A second summit attempt had to be called off because of bad weather.

SEUNG MO SHIN, Korean Alpine Club

*Makalu, West Face.* A Polish-Brazilian expedition climbed the 8000-foot-high virgin west face of Makalu. Since Wojciech Kurtyka and Alex MacIntyre had twice attempted it, all eyes have been on this face. The team, led by Adam Bilczewski, consisted of 17 Poles and three Brazilians. The only Sherpa was sirdar Ang Kami. The team climbed the prominent left buttress of the face, which was difficult but free from rockfall and avalanches. Base Camp was established from August 28 to 31 at 17,700 feet. On September 2 Camp I was placed at 19,700 feet above the dangerous icefall. There the steep face began, involving mixed ice-and-rock climbing. Two camps were set up on the buttress: Camps II and III at 21,650 and 23,300 feet on September 11 and 19. The section above Camp III was very hard (UIAA V+, AO), but the crux of the route was at 24,600 feet. A vertical, and in places overhanging, rock band of some 350 feet was most difficult. Tragedy struck when Tadeusz Szulz was fixing ropes and suddenly died of a heart attack. Having completed the greatest difficulties, the members decided to continue. On October 7 Janusz Skorek and Andrzej Czok reached the north ridge, on which the Polish route had been pioneered in 1981 by Jerzy Kukuczka solo. Camp IV at 26,250 feet was established. They slept using artificial oxygen. The following day this pair made the first summit attempt, but extreme cold and winds made the climbing impossible. Skorek's fingers were frozen and the next day he descended with Andrzej Machnik in doubtful weather. Czok remained at Camp IV waiting for better weather. He was without artificial oxygen. Base Camp tried to persuade him to turn back, but he insisted on a summit try. He spent the day and a third night at Camp IV. On October 10 the weather was suitable and Czok set out alone and, without oxygen, followed Kukuczka's north ridge route. At 12:45 P.M. he reached the highest point of Makalu (8481 meters, 27,825 feet). The weather was fine and he sat for 40 minutes on top. He returned that same day to Camp III, having been over 8000 meters for three days and nights, using supplemental oxygen only during the first night. The weather was now favorable, but Bilczewski did not agree to further ascents because of the difficulty of the route. Ang Kami reached Camp I and the three Brazilians Camp II. This