

*Nuptse Attempt.* Hans-Burkhard Nix led an unsuccessful German attempt on the north face of Nuptse; they had hoped to repeat the Doug Scott route. They arrived late in the post-monsoon season and gave up after twelve days at 21,325 feet before reaching the face because of worsening conditions in the Khumbu Icefall.

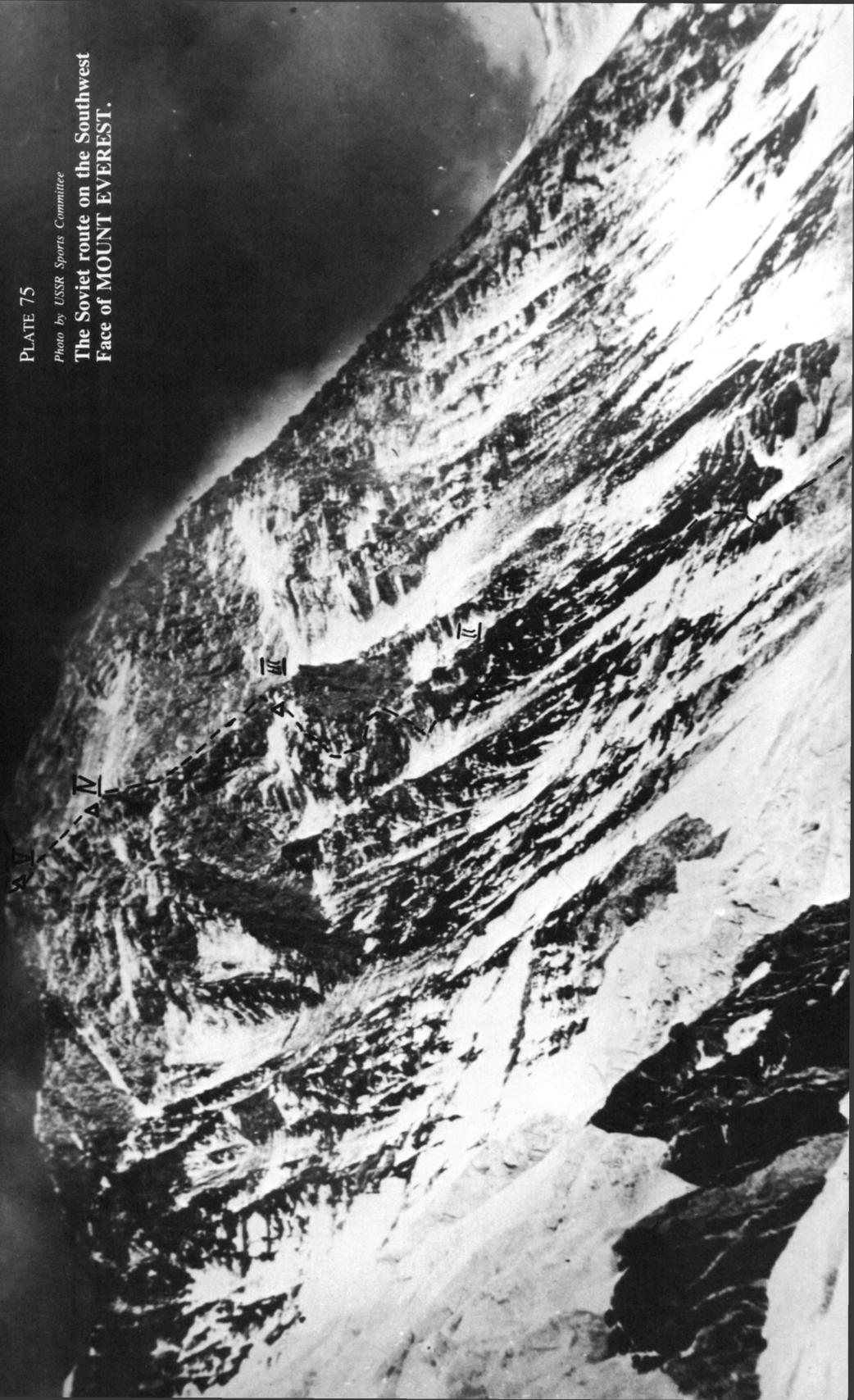
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*Mount Everest, New Route on Southwest Face.* The objective of the expedition was to climb Mount Everest by a new route on the southwest face to the left of the Bonington Couloir. The expedition consisted of 25 members: 17 climbers, camera crew, a doctor, a radio man. The leader was the well known Soviet climber, Evgeny Tamm. Base Camp was established by an advance group on March 16 at the traditional place, the Khumbu Glacier. By March 21 when the main party arrived at Base Camp, the route through the Khumbu Icefall had been prepared by the same group of five members led by the senior coach of the expedition, A. Ovchinnikov. Camps I (at the foot of the face), II, III, and IV were established at 21,325, 23,800, 25,750 and 27,050 feet on March 25, April 1, 10 and 22 respectively. Placing camps and preparing the route were carried out by the climbers. Ten high-altitude Sherpas led by Sirdar Pemba Norbu managed to carry loads to Camp II. Camp III was reached by only two of them. The strongest, Nawang, made an attempt to join the advanced group of climbers but had to give up because of the technical complications of the route. The route between Camps II and V is rated at 5 difficulty (Soviet classification). The most difficult stretch was the approach to Camp IV. Having established Camp IV, all climbers descended for rest to the Thyangboche Monastery. On April 27 Eduard Myslovsky and Vladimir Balyberdin set out from Base Camp to prepare the route above Camp IV. On May 3 they placed Camp V at 27,900 feet, 150 feet below the west ridge. On May 4 these two set out from Camp V and reached the summit at 2:35 P.M. Balyberdin did not use oxygen while climbing. While descending from the top, they were met by Sergei Bershov and Mikhail Turkevich, who were waiting for them with spare oxygen cylinders. Having left the oxygen, Bershov and Turkevich went on and reached the summit at 10:25 P.M. As they descended, they caught up with Myslovsky and Balyberdin and helped them to reach Camp V, which they all reached at six A.M. on May 5. On May 5 Valentin Ivanov and Sergei Ephimov got to the summit. On May 7 Kazbek Valiev and V. Khrishchaty attempted to reach the top from Camp V but were turned back by violent wind. Their second attempt was made in the evening when the weather seemed to be improving. They reached the summit on May 8 at 1:45 A.M. The last group of climbers consisted of Yuri Golodov, Vladimir

PLATE 75

*Photo by USSR Sports Committee*

**The Soviet route on the Southwest  
Face of MOUNT EVEREST.**



Puchkov and Valery Khomutov, who got to the summit on May 9 at 11:30 A.M. Thus a total of eleven Soviet mountaineers climbed Mount Everest by the most difficult route ever ascended by Everest climbers.

*USSR Sports Committee*

*Mount Everest.* Our team members were Lloyd Gallagher, John Amatt, Tim Auger, Robert Baillie, Alan Burgess, James Blench, Dwayne Congdon, Jim Elzinga, Roger Marshall, Dave McNab, Pat Morrow, Dave Read, Gordon Smith, Laurie Skreslet, Don Serl and I as leader, supported by Dr. Steve Bezruchka, Dr. David Jones, Kurt Fuhrlich, Blair Griffiths, Bruce Patterson and Peter Spear. We left on July 26 for the walk to Base Camp. Most of the food and equipment had been sent in ahead in the pre-monsoon and was stored at Namche and Periche. Two members went ahead to set up Base Camp and by August 15 the team arrived at a fully established Base Camp. The Nepalese authorities had given permission to prepare the icefall and to carry to Camp I between August 20 and the start of the official season on September 1. We used the time well and by August 30 we had 120 loads at the site of Camp I. At 5:30 A.M. on August 31 an avalanche from the west shoulder swept away three Sherpas and four members. The Sherpas were buried and killed whilst the members survived with minor bruises apart from Spear who was completely buried and was dug out suffering from a wrenched back. Two days later tragedy struck again. Griffiths, the cameraman, was killed by a falling sérac in the icefall. The expedition reeled under these heavy blows and it was decided that everyone reconsider his commitment to the climb in view of the high level of danger in the icefall. Auger, Baillie, Blench, McNab, Elzinga and Serl decided to leave. Dave Jones also left as he was not acclimatizing. The remaining climbers were held up by bad weather for a week. Permission was granted to change from the South Pillar to the South Col and the New Zealand expedition on the Lhotse face agreed to cooperate with us between Camps II and IV. On September 16 Camp I was reoccupied at 19,600 feet. Conditions were good and progress was rapid, with Camp II occupied at 21,400 feet on September 22 and Camp III at 23,400 feet on the 28th. On October 4 Skreslet, Read and Sherpas Sundare and Lakpa Dorje occupied Camp IV on the South Col. The following day Skreslet and the two Sherpas climbed to the summit, returning to Camp II the same day. Two days later, Morrow, Pema Dorje and Lakpa Tsering also made the summit. Two climbers, Gallagher on the first attempt and Burgess on the second, were thwarted by faulty oxygen; the latter reached 27,500 feet without artificial oxygen. All climbers returned to Base Camp by October 8.