

cuisine in restaurants and, except for tents in Verdon, we slept in cozy countryside hotels. Our gratitude goes to the FFM and the French climbers, particularly Alain Lebian, who organized the gathering.

STEPHEN SCHNEIDER

## AFRICA

*Kilimanjaro, Breach Icicle.* On July 21 Scott Fischer and Wes Krause completed the first American ascent of the Breach Icicle (the Breach Wall Direct) on Kilimanjaro. The only other ascent was made in 1978 by Reinhold Messner and K. Renzler.

## ASIA

### Bhutan

*Jichu Drake Attempt and Sepchu Kang.* Our women's expedition went as the first mountaineering expedition to Bhutan on April 16. We had intended to climb the east ridge of Jichu Drake (previously incorrectly identified\* as Tshेरim Kang). We set out from Paro on April 21 and traveled through Shana, Soithangthanka and Jangothang to Base Camp on a beautiful lake at 14,100 feet on April 30. We made Camps I, II and III at 15,100, 16,750 and 17,050 feet on May 1, 3 and 10 respectively. Above, the route was so steep and difficult that we gave up the attempt on May 14. Fortunately we were given permission to climb Sepchu Kang (5200 meters, 17,061 feet) near Shodo. On May 20 and 21 nine Japanese and four Bhutanese reached the summit.

JUNKO TABEL, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Jichu Drake, or Tshेरim Kang.* Although our permission was for a 7000-meter peak, on the summit our altimeter showed about 6800 meters. (In communication with the Editor, Bhutanese authorities gave the altitude as 6790 meters or 22,277 feet.—*Editor.*) The southwest ridge seemed the best way. We placed Base Camp at 14,100 feet and Camp I at the foot of the ridge at 15,750 feet. From there it took hard work chopping steps in the ice and climbing UIAA Grade-IV rock to reach Camp II at 18,375 feet. The ice above Camp II on the knife-edged ridge, which was up to 70°, was the most difficult part of the climb. Finally on May 15, after eight days, at 20,000 feet we could set up a tiny tent on an ice ledge hacked on the crest of the exposed ridge as Camp III. As time was

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\* There still seems to be considerable question as to the names of these peaks.—*Editor.*