7: The winds kept us pinned until midday. We climbed the broad slope in four hours and set up the tent at 7450 meters after another hour's climbing." We managed to get to the summit on April 8 despite very windy conditions. I had trouble keeping my toes warm. Martín found it difficult to keep food down. We found a sheltered spot on the lee of the ridge at 7800 meters and got a little warmer. Several times we were forced to find shelter on the southwest side of the ridge. Finally we swung back left to the northeast and braced ourselves with our ski poles. Once off the last rock steps, Martín began veering toward a snowy mound on our left. At the same time, I realized that the top must be far to the southeast side of this immense plateau. We pressed on over the nearly level plateau, gaining only a few meters for every hundred that we crossed. Though the winds were still high, the midday sun seemed to bring some decrease in their intensity. We were still gaining altitude. Suddenly, after three-quarters of an hour, we were rewarded with a view to the east of Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse and the entire Khumbu valley. The scenery was breath-taking. This is why I love to climb. Only two or three hundred meters remained until the plateau began to drop off to the south. There were jumbles of large ice blocks, wedged up from glacial pressure. As we reached this mound, we hugged each other roughly. We shot a few photos as Martín clung tightly to his Basque flag and I to my American one. This was our second high summit together. This forges bonds that will last a lifetime. Then we began descending the 700 meters back to our bivouac tent.

CARLOS BUHLER

Cho Oyu Attempts. Seven Swiss climbers led by Karl Kobler failed to climb Cho Oyu. They got to 6200 meters on the southwest ridge on April 28. Seven Koreans led by Chi Yoon-Soo reached 6600 meters on the same ridge on May 9 but could not complete the climb.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. A Korean expedition led by Park Sang-Yeol crossed to the west ridge and west face of Cho Oyu from the south. On September 2, Hong Kyung-Pyo, Lee Dong-Yeon and Wangel Sherpa reached the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu, Southeast Face Attempt and Assault. Our Belgian expedition, consisting of Louis Lange, Régis Maincent, Michel Brent and me as leader, attempted to make a winter ascent of the southeast face of Cho Oyu. We established Base Camp, Camps I and II at 5250, 6100 and 6800 meters on November 24, December 4 and 10. After two unsuccessful alpine-style attempts for the summit which reached 7200 meters, we gave up because of the constant

threat of falling séracs sweeping the upper part of the face. Twice we were nearly overwhelmed. The snow and ice conditions were very good. The wind was strong and it was cold, but the sérac danger was too great. There is a very grave matter to report. There was a Korean expedition with which we never succeeded in communicating which despite a permission only for the southwest ridge came to the southeast face. When we removed our fixed ropes, they attacked us with extreme violence. The liaison officers were four days' march below us. Except for the intervention of the Koreans' Sherpas, we would not have escaped with our lives, as attested to by our open wounds.

ALAIN HUBERT, *Club Alpin Belge*

Cho Oyu Attempt, Tragedy and Assault. An expedition of seven Koreans apparently had permission for the southwest ridge of Cho Oyu but turned instead to the southeast face. They reached 7800 meters before abandoning their effort. Ang Lhakpa (also known as Lhakpa Nuru) had scaled Everest twice as well as two other 8000ers. He fell and was killed on this expedition. Tragically, he was one of five Sherpas who died as they accompanied climbers on winter expeditions this year. The Sherpa climber's death rate was three times that of the foreigners who perished this winter. Since the Koreans were on the same route as the Belgians, there happened what possibly was bound to happen sooner or later when more than one team is on the same route on the same mountain at the same time. They came to blows. Alain Hubert and Régis Maincent were attacked with fists and sticks, according to them, by three of the Korean party and six Sherpas. The Korean leader Lee Ho-Sang denies that any Koreans took part in the fracas, but he does agree that in the hour-long fight Maincent received a head wound that bled badly and that a rope was tied around Maincent's neck and his arms were pinned behind his back. The Europeans fled into the night, hobbling away with the aid of their ski poles.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dorje Lhakpa Attempt. Our expedition consisted of M. Paolucci, D. Morandotti, F. Cella, L. Zarpellon, L. Lehner, Dr. M. Dell'Oca and me as leader. We approached from the south. We hoped to climb the ridge system used by the Germans for their descent in 1986. On October 5, we set up Base Camp at 4300 meters near the moraine of the glacier that comes down the south face of Dorje Lhakpa. We placed Camp I at 5300 meters on the lower part of the west ridge on October 8. On the 10th and 11th, Zarpellon, Morandotti, Cella and a Sherpa tried to climb to the site of Camp II but because of avalanche danger they gave up at 5650 meters.

EZIO GOGGI, *Amici del Contrin, Italy*

Langsisa Ri. Koreans Oh In-Hwan and Park Young-Seok and Nima Tamang composed this small expedition. They approached via the Langtang Khola and