

south (central) buttress is imposing with 1000 meters of rock at the foot of the 2600-meter face. Berhault fell ill with a virus and had to withdraw after two days in our 5200-meter Base Camp. We other three began our effort in good weather. Rock steps and arêtes covered with snow mushrooms came one after another. After eight days in four sorties, we had fixed 1000 meters of rope with 6b difficulty in rock and 85° ice. On the fourth sortie, Vionnet suffered a fall and had to withdraw. Moulin and I continued our attempt after a rest. In one day, we got to the top of the fixed ropes and climbed 200 meters more, where we bivouacked at 6400 meters under the cornice at the top of the buttress. Above its top, we climbed the ridge leading to the foot of the final face, subjected to savage winds. Despite this, we continued on to bivouac in a crevasse at 7000 meters. The next morning, October 16, we hoped to be able to climb to the summit from there. After some 60° snow, we ran up against a rock band at 7300 meters. We climbed on and at five P.M. got to a foresummit at 7500 meters, but the redoubled wind was so fierce that we had to turn back. We returned to our bivouac, hoping for calmer weather the next day, but that did not happen and we descended.

MICHEL FAUQUET, *Club Alpin Français*

*Ama Dablam, Southeast Face.* Sergei Bogomolov, Dmitri Botov, Sergei Golubtsov and I climbed a new route on Ama Dablam in pure alpine-style with no fixed camps, no fixed rope and no Sherpa porters. We placed Base Camp on the Nare Glacier at 5300 meters. The route lay through steep ice couloirs on the right side of the southeast face. At 6300 meters, these couloirs led onto the east ridge, which we followed to the summit. Because of the steepness of the route, we had to use ice screws the whole time. The east ridge presented great problems because of unstable cornices. Our first bivouac on April 21 was in a couloir at 5600 meters on a narrow ice ledge where we could barely set up a tent. The next was on a steep ice rise at 6100 meters, also under poor conditions. Bivouac 3 was on a narrow ice ridge at 6300 meters. From there on, one of our members began suffering from hepatitis, but he did not quit. Bivouac 4 was on a very steep ice slope at 6400 meters and Bivouac 5 in a snow cave at 6600 meters. We were held up at Bivouac 6 at 6700 meters near the summit rise for two days because of bad weather. On April 28, all four of us reached the summit. The weather was bad during the whole ascent and we could move effectively only for two or three hours each morning before it began to snow. Under more favorable weather conditions, the climb could be done faster. By the time we reached the top, our food and fuel had run out and the weather became worse. The descent down our ascent route took two days. Avalanches of fresh snow come down along the entire face and we were struck several times. Once, it was solely an ice screw that prevented our being swept away.

VLADIMIR BASHKIROV, *Russia*