account of the odyssey appears earlier in this journal.

Loinbo Kangri, Ascent, and Qungmo Kangri, Ascent. It was reported that a joint Chinese-Korean expedition managed to make the first ascent of Qungmo Kangri (7048m) in the Trans Himalaya north of the Manaslu-Annapurna region of Nepal. On October 7, Wang Yon-Feng, Jung in-Kyu, Cha Jin-Chol, Moon Young-Soung and You Seok-Jae climbed the mountain, followed by Lee Shoong-Jik and Cha-Yo-Han on the 8th. The team then turned its efforts to the first ascent of Loinbo Kangri (7095m). On October 23, Cha Jin-Chol (China), You Seok-Jae and Bang Jung-il (Korea) summited via the northeast ridge. (*High Mountain Sports* 175)

Jumo Ganker, Attempt. It was reported that Huw Davies and John Town (U.K.) attempted Jomo Ganker (7048m) in the Western Nyanchen Tangla Range in Central Tibet in late July and August. They were hoping to make the first western ascent of the mountain by following the line of the other two ascents up the south face. They reached 5900 meters; the weather was unsettled throughout their climb. (*High Mountain Sports* 186)

Sepu Kangri, Attempt. There is a range of mountains in Tibet comparable in length to the entire Swiss Alps that remains almost unknown. The eastern section of the Nyangla-Qen-Tangla Shan lies barely 300 kilometers north of the Himalayan frontier crest, stretching across a remote area of central Tibet. This land is sparsely populated yet fertile, a tract of forested valleys coursing through the Tibetan plateau. Its peaks range from gentle hills of around 5000 to 5500 meters in the north to a range of dramatic, steep, and difficult ice peaks in the central and southern sectors. There is a pattern of inhospitable weather throughout most of the warmer summer months, with much fresh snowfall. Sepu Kangri (6690m), at 30.9°N 93.8°E, is the highest summit.

This mountain region northeast of Lhasa, loosely called the Sino-Himalayan axis by explorers earlier this century or sometimes referred to simply as the Tang-La, is the source of three great rivers of Asia, the Yangtse, the Mekong and the Salween I. We reconnoitered the northern side of Sepu Kangri in the summer of 1996, finding a route south from Diru into the valleys leading to the glaciers of its north face. In a separate journey, we also visited the southern side of the range.

For the local people, the principal summits of the Sepu Kangri massif are Sepu-Kung-Lha-Karpo, The White Sky God, the highest, and its immediate neighbor to the east, Bon-Che-Dadhul, Sepu’s Son. Yu-Yi-Metok, The Turquoise Flower, or Sepu’s Daughter, is a stark 6800-meter pyramid west of the main peak. There are six other summits with Tibetan names. These peaks are sacred; the Samda monastery, an 800-year-old Bonpo fortress shrine presently housing 40 monks, is a day’s journey below them. Our view from base camp was hard to reconcile with a comment from one of our own elders at the Alpine Club before we left: “Really, there are no mountains of any interest in that area of Tibet.”

For our hosts on this expedition, the China Tibet Mountaineering Association (whose cooperation could not have been better), this area also remains a relative blank on the map. Like much of the Himalayan crest, good maps doubtless exist, but are still restricted for military use only. The whole region remains firmly closed to foreigners. Our own journeys were the product of lengthy negotiation. The file of correspondence, commencing with a photo taken from a Chengdu-Lhasa flight one early morning in March, 1982, tells a story of despair, hope, disappointment, giving way to encouragement, commitment and, finally, travel, to this remarkable area.

We reached base camp on April 30. On our recce in August the year before, I had identi-