of the real climb, the team added another eight pitches before bivying on a poor and extremely rotten and dangerous snowy ledge. The day after, the team climbed another six pitches and bivouacked on a steep and snowy ledge (after day 1, we had no food). On the last day we climbed one pitch, then made the descent.

The climb is very hard, sustained and sometimes dangerous and difficult. Except for the first 70 meters and two short pitches in the middle, all the pitches are at least UIAA VI and A1. The team placed four bolts on the ascent: two at belays, one for protection on a very rotten part of rock (A2+ and VI) and one because the leader was caught by dark (subsequently, the hanger to this bolt was removed). About two nuts, one sling (for a pendulum) and five stuck pitons were left on the route. We found nasty snow conditions.

The descent on the blank wall is a serious undertaking via rappels that are never shorter than 50 meters and as long as 59.8 meters. Most belays were made with two pitons or one single bolt. The overall difficulties involved 18 pitches up to UIAA VIII- and A3.

On the fifth pitch, we found a Wild Country #3 Friend with a carabiner and tied-off sling. At home, we discovered this was left by the Doug Scott/Sandy Allen party. After that piece, on the same pitch, we found difficulties up to VIII-. We found no further traces of climbing (pitons, scars, etc.). We feel the previous team did not do our line but took a crack toward the left (where the Friend was found) and did another line from then on. On the rappel, 50 to 60 meters from our high point, we found a piton with a sling at a bivouac site plus an empty gas cartridge. Via private correspondence, we determined that this piton was the high point of the Scott/Allen team.

Although the Scott/Allen party claimed a new route, and even though we went higher than they did, we feel our route remains a strong attempt but cannot be claimed as a new line or a summit. The next pitch after the Scott/Allen high point was rated VII and A3 (aid crux of the route).

Part of the team had to return home, but Luca Maspes, before moving into another valley and joining another team (see below), put up a new route (V, 400m) on a peak christened Simo Peak. Descent was made via an easy rock couloir.

Emanuele Pellizzari

Biacherahi Tower, Hanispur South and Indian Face Arête, Ascents. The expedition was comprised of Muir Morton (leader), Tom Bridgeland, Sam Chinnery, Alasdair Coull, Neal Crampton, Dave Hollinger, Dan Long and Paul Schweizer. We set up Base Camp in early July on a strip of moraine on the north side of the Choktoi Glacier, directly across from the Indian
Face Arête on Latok III. The first quarter of Latok III’s north spur was found to be seriously threatened by unstable seracs, especially to the right. When a huge serac avalanche from high on the north face, to the left of the spur, came very close to wiping out several members of the party, we decided to abandon the north spur and focus on some objectively safer alternatives.

On July 19, Hollinger and Schweizer climbed Biacherahi Tower (5800m), the striking shark’s-fin-type formation directly across the Choktoi Glacier from Latok I. We climbed it from near the col linking the Choktoi and Nobande Sobande Glaciers. Ascending Biacherahi Tower took about four and a half hours from high camp; we left around 5 a.m. and attained the high col between the Tower and its neighboring peak (a Snowdome-type formation of roughly equal height) by about 7 a.m. After ascending the north ridge for several hundred feet, we decided to rope up and encountered ice up to 65 degrees. We rappelled the route with ice threads to get back to the col.

On July 28, Hollinger and Schweizer made an ascent of Hanispur South (a.k.a. Harpoon Peak, 6047m), the prominent triangular summit directly behind BC (see AAJ 1999, pp. 386-389). On July 27, we established a high camp in the col between Hanispur and Trident (or Choktoi) Peak and the next morning ascended a steep névé face to the north ridge, which we followed over sections of steep, rotten ice and mixed ground to a false summit. Here we rappelled 40 feet into a notch in the ridge and continued for two more pitches to the actual summit.

On Hanispur, ascending the route took about eight and a half hours from high camp. The north ridge was fairly jagged and heavily corniced, with some very rotten ice. The first difficulty was a rotten snow mushroom which we traversed under to the left. This was followed by a pitch of reasonably engaging mixed climbing (probably hard Scottish 4). The crux was a pitch of totally rotten 75-degree ice. We reached the summit at about 2 p.m. Descending took some time, because we had to reverse the rappel from the false summit. We then rappelled into a long northeast couloir which led straight to high camp after maybe 15 rappels and a lot of down-climbing. We didn’t get back to high camp until midnight, then returned to BC the next day.

Chinnery, Coull, Morten and Hollinger also did the first ascent of the West Wall (A3, 800m) of the Indian Face Arête. The main arête line was first climbed by Doug Scott and Sandy Allen in 1990. The new variation climbs an obvious groove that runs up the left side of the vertical west wall of the spur. It starts 80 meters up the central couloir and reaches the Scott/Allen route at about half height. On the Indian Face Arête, the wall was climbed during five days using fixed ropes and returning to the comfort of BC each night until the final push.
On July 27, Coull, Chinnery and Morten followed the fixed line to the ridge, cleaning all fixed gear as they went. The original Scott/Allen route was then followed, with one bivy, to reach the summit of the arête on July 28.

Paul Schweizer, University of Edinburgh Mountaineering Club

Ogre, South Buttress, Attempt, and Latok IV, South Summit, Ascent. Alexander Huber, Toni Gutsch and Jan Mersch reached Islamabad on May 31. Thomas Huber arrived on June 3. Our lost equipment (24 out of 37 pieces) finally arrived on June 9. We reached Skardu on June 11 and Askoli on the 13th. After a four-day walk-in, we reached Base Camp on June 17. We established Advanced Base Camp (5000m) June 26 and three days later began up the south buttress of the Ogre, establishing a portaledge camp at ca. 6000 meters. We chose the south buttress, an intimidating bow of rock which, due to its protruding nature and steepness, is not exposed to avalanches, rock- and icefall. The pillar was first climbed by the Frenchmen Fine and Vauquet 15 years ago. High on the mountain, the two were hit by a storm and had to give up just below the summit. In 1997, Jan Mersch and Jochen Haase reached the top of the pillar in just six days from BC, but were hit by a storm and didn't reach the top either.

We then changed our objective to Latok IV (6450m). After exploring the route and after several days of bad weather we started our first attempt, but this attempt ended at ABC in bad weather.

On July 10, we started our next attempt, which ended at approximately 6300 meters in the col between the double-summitted Latok IV. On July 16, we started another attempt on the Ogre, ascending from BC to the portaledge camp on the buttress. The next morning we were offended by a cloud barrier only 50 kilometers away from us. In view of the need for another four days of good weather, we canceled our attempt and rappelled down to BC. On July 18, we had another day of unexpectedly good weather, but the barometer was falling and