

bringing humidity and dust from the Arabian Peninsula. For our next attempt, which took place on the 9th, we moved the top camp to 6,500m but still had to turn back from the upper slopes of the dome at ca 7,000m, when visibility dropped to zero. The next day, we were able to reach the foot of the rock ridge before the weather deteriorated and then proceed to the top, disregarding the poor visibility. The last 200m involved unstable rock with unreliable protection. We reached the summit late in the afternoon of the 10th. Descent was quick: by August 13 we were back in Kashgar.



Climbing above a dust storm on the first ascent of Kokodag. *Lev Ioffe*

LEV IOFFE, USA

*Aksai Chin, north summit, second ascent, southeast route.* As reported in *AAJ 2006*, p. 439, Aksai Chin (7,167m: sometimes referred to as Kun Lun, as it is the highest peak in this part of Kun Lun Range) was climbed in 1986 and 1997 by Japanese expeditions. On the 1986 ascent the party also traversed the summit ridge to the north summit. This lower summit, named Doufeng (6,957m), was climbed again in April-May by my client Bruno Paulet and me (guiding). We climbed a new route from the southeast directly to the top (900m, AD), taking two days for the glacier approach from base camp and reaching the summit on the third. However, we felt the easiest route to either summit was from the northwest, a flank that might provide a nice ski ascent.

CHRISTIAN TROMMSDORFF, *France*

*Qong Mustagh massif, circumnavigation, reconnaissance.* Our five-man team of Vasilyi Ivanov, Edmundas Jonikas, Alexander Moiseev, Tadeush Schepanyuk, and I arrived in the village of Polu on September 9. Polu is situated on the Kourab-darja River, a tributary of the Kerija on the northern slopes of the Kun Lun. With a team of donkeys and two local guides, we moved south through the Kourab Gorge, after which we crossed two high passes to the east, the Is-dawan (5,140m) and Tourpa-



The unclimbed and unnamed Pt. 6,470m, in the southwestern Qong Muztagh, as seen from the south. *Otto Chkhetiani*