

peak in the center of the range behind the Huayna Potosí group. Olavarrieta, the Englishman Tony Inglis, and the Bolivian Moore, on July 25 ascended an unclimbed peak, the Aguja Negra, which we renamed "Pico Independencia Mexicana" (ca. 17,700 feet). They enjoyed a delightful climb on both rock and ice amid scores of difficult and beautiful peaks. In the same region, Adrian Aponte with the Bolivian Martínez made the fifth ascent of Huallumen (ca. 18,375 feet) on July 21. Before visiting Illimani, we climbed in the Zongo region near Huayna Potosí, where the Bolivians Moore and Jorge Portugal and the Mexicans Aponte, Olavarrieta and I had the opportunity on June 18 to make the first ascent of a peak we called "Cumbre Fraternidad" (ca. 17,900 feet), which rises above the Lago Canada, one of the many lakes, formed by melt water, which make this region a true climber's paradise. On the same day Moore and Aponte also climbed Cuna Tincuta (ca. 18,375 feet), while the Mexicans Sergio Hernández de la Rosa and Carlos Olivares Valderrabano, with the Bolivians Walter Galindo and Alfredo Martínez, ascended Cuticucho (ca. 17,060 feet). Both of these peaks had been climbed a number of times before.

ANTONIO ROMERO BENAVIDES, *Federación Mexicana de Excursionismo*

### *Chile*

*Cerro Tronco.* Two members of the Club Alemán de Excursionismo in February made the first ascent of the Cerro Tronco (18,080 feet on some maps and 18,373 feet on others), which lies on the Argentine border east-northeast of Santiago. To accomplish this climb they had to traverse from the Cerro Risopatrón (18,872 feet). The Cerro Tronco, which had been one of the few yet unclimbed peaks over 5000 meters in Central Chile, had been unsuccessfully attempted at least four times.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Chilean-Japanese Expedition to the Central Cordillera.* The expedition which was still in the field when the last *A.A.J.* went to press (see *A.A.J.*, 1960, 12:1, p. 151) added to the list of first ascents already reported the following, all of which were in the Río Colorado valley, northwest of Portillo, the ski resort: Cerro Expedición (16,733 feet), Cerro Amarillo (16,575 feet), Monjas (15,020 feet), Columpios del Diablo (both peaks, ca. 14,100 feet). They also made the second ascent of the Nevado Leiva (15,290 feet). Participating were the Japanese N. Ota, H.

Tamba, H. Toyoda, and the Chileans, J. Bocaz, H. Duránd, L. Gamboa, G. Mills, G. Muga, and M. Puig. This phase of the expedition took place from March 10 to April 4.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Cerro O'Higgins, Patagonia.* A party sent by the Federación de Andinismo de Chile to the area forty miles north of FitzRoy made the first ascent of the Cerro O'Higgins (9547 feet) on January 16. The climbers, W. Espinoza, E. García, C. Marangunic and F. Vivanco, established six camps on the mountain.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Chilean Ascents.* Juncal (20,046 feet) was ascended via the northwest glacier by the Chileans Espinoza and Vivanco in early 1961. This route had been previously ascended only by the Italians in 1934. The Chileans Tangol and Vásquez made the first ascent of the south peak of Morado (16,601 feet) by its south face.

Sad news comes from the British expeditions to Patagonia. Peter C. Henry has perished tragically in Lake Nordenskjöld.

BIÓN GONZÁLEZ, *Federación de Andinismo de Chile*

### *Argentina*

*Cerro Catedral Group.* Two more climbs of extreme difficulty were made in the Catedral group near Bariloche, both new routes. In March Anselmo Weber and Carlos Bottazzi climbed the Torre "La Vieja" shortly before Weber and Teodoro Sifuentes climbed the much longer front face of the Aguja Frey. These two routes represent very difficult technical problems, which could be solved only by the use of modern climbing methods.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*South face of El Plata.* Four Polish climbers living in Buenos Aires undertook to climb the extremely steep, difficult and rock-swept south face of El Plata (19,784 feet) above Mendoza. Perhaps the only comparable climb to it was the French ascent of the south face of Aconcagua in 1954. It must be remembered that south faces in the Andes are like north faces in the Northern Hemisphere. Indeed in his communication to the editor, Pablo Dudzinski states, "In some ways it is something like the north face of the Eiger; although technically not so difficult, it has continuous rock-fall and ice avalanches, which make the ascent very hazardous. It is also a trap, for once on the wall it is possible to move only upwards or down,