

*Gangchhen Ledrub, Langtang Himal.* A Japanese expedition was active in the Langtang Himal, being the third Japanese group in the region. (See *A.A.J.*, 1959, 11:2, pp. 245-6 and *A.A.J.*, 1960, 12:1, p. 69.) They were above 20,000 feet on Gangchhen Ledrub (or Lantang Lirung) (23,771 feet) when on May 11 an avalanche swept to their deaths the leader Kaichi Morimoto and Kenichi Oshima and the Sherpa Gyaltsen Norbu. The latter had made the ascent of two 8000ers, Makalu with the French, and Manaslu with the Japanese. While a rescue of the climbers was being attempted, a second avalanche swept down on the party, but although there were injuries, no more fatalities occurred. The expedition gave up its efforts to climb the mountain after the accident and returned to civilization.

*Langpo Gang, Jugal Himal.* Another Japanese expedition was also in Nepal at the same time. Under the leadership of Tokujiro Kajimoto, they climbed to within a few hundred feet of the summit of Langpo Gang (Big White Peak) (23,240 feet) but they had to retreat because of bad weather and lack of supplies. A Japanese expedition had reconnoitered the peak in 1958. (See *A.A.J.*, 1959, 11:2, p. 245.)

*Manaslu II.* A third Japanese expedition attempted to climb Manaslu II (Peak 29) (25,705 feet) but failed to reach the summit.

*Observations on the Chinese Everest Expedition 1960.* The most important account of the Chinese Everest undertaking is Shih Chan-Chun's article, which the news service of *New China* has circulated and was published in many languages in 1961. In it we are presented with a number of puzzling points, which become all the more confusing since in the "route description" there are almost no topographical details and since the photographs do not seem to have been taken higher than 25,000 feet (7620 meters). The only exception is Chu Yin-hua's photograph, which for example is published on page 9 of *La Montagne* of February 1961.

In this picture the following may be definitely identified: Kharta Phu (23,640 feet = 7221 meters), Kharta Changri (23,070 feet = 7032 meters), "Dent Blanche" (22,150 feet = 6751 meters) and P. 22,670 feet = 6910 meters. A careful comparison on the one hand with Plate 34 in Ruttledge's *Everest 1933*, taken at c. 7835 meters and on the other with the Swiss summit panorama, northeast sector, 1956, taken at 8848 meters, clearly shows that the Chinese photograph was made between these at an altitude of about 8700 meters. It is difficult to decide whether the photograph was taken on the northeast ridge or whether it is an aerial photograph taken near the northeast ridge, for the Chinese photograph has no foreground at all; it is either a portion of a larger picture (movie-film?) or a telephoto with an angle of c. 21°.