

## ASIA

## Nepal

*Annapurna II and IV.* Kazmir Drašlar and Majija Maležič reached the summit of Annapurna II (26,041 feet) for the second ascent after sunset of October 22 from Camp VI at 23,800 feet. The camp was regained only at 2:30 A.M. on the 23rd. (First ascent on May 17, 1960 by R. H. Grant, C. J. Bonington and Ang Nyima.) Camp V, below Annapurna IV, was slightly higher than Camp VI, which was placed at the foot of the final steepness of the west ridge. Bad snow conditions slowed the 1969 party. On October 21 from Camp V Golob, Andlovic and the leader of the Yugoslav expedition, Alex Kunaver, climbed Annapurna IV (24,688 feet), the sixth ascent.

JAMES O. M. ROBERTS, *Alpine Club*

*Annapurna IV.* A nine-man Czech expedition, led by Wladimir Prochaska, attacked Annapurna IV (24,688 feet). The first attempt failed, but on October 7 Albrecht Milos and the Sherpa Angbabu reached the summit for the fifth ascent.

GÜNTER OSKAR DYRENFURTH, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

*Attempt on Annapurna I.* After an approach march of eight days from Pokhara, a strong German expedition led by Ludwig Greissl arrived at Base Camp at 14,100 feet on the West Annapurna Glacier. The other members of the party were Helmut Müller, Reinhold Obster, Erich Reissmüller, Pit Schubert, Uwe Kerner, Hans Reiter, Karl Winkler, and Adolf Hanke. After a comparatively snowless winter, the glaciers were in bad condition and very active. They were plagued by bad weather. Camp I was placed at 16,750 feet on April 9 and Camp II at 18,700 feet on April 16, after they bridged crevasses with poles. Between Camps II and III, which was established at 19,850 feet on April 22, there was a bottle-necked ice couloir, threatened by falling ice. Camp IV (May 3) at 21,325 feet and Camp V (May 7) at 23,125 feet, which was just below the summit of 23,430-foot Glacier Dome, were established along a line that ascended generally north to the main crest. From there the route was to follow the long east ridge. On May 9 Obster, Schubert and Winkler climbed east along the ridge from Glacier Dome to Roc Noir (24,650 feet). On May 12 Camp VI was established at 23,775 feet below Roc Noir, but frightful storms hit them for the next five days. In a break in the weather on the 18th Müller

and Kerner again climbed to the summit of Roc Noir to fix ropes, but on May 19 the bad weather returned. So late in the season, with such bad weather, it now became obvious that they were too exhausted to continue. All were back in Base Camp by May 22.

*Dhaulagiri IV Tragedy.* Five Austrian climbers, Richard Hoyer, leader, Peter Lavicka, Peter Nemec, Kurt Ring and Kurt Reha, with Sherpa Tensing Nindra, were lost on Dhaulagiri IV (25,133 feet), presumably in an avalanche which may have overwhelmed their west-ridge Camp V, at 22,650 feet, some time between November 9 and 11. No signs of their bodies were ever seen in ground and air search. They flew to Pokhara on September 17 and reached Base Camp on October 1 after approaching from the south via the Mayangdi and Konaban rivers. After arrival at Base, they could see that it was to be an extremely difficult climb. To surmount a rock barrier they climbed a long ridge, which they compared to the Peuterey ridge of Mont Blanc. They placed three camps along this ridge, at 16,250, 18,850 and 20,100 feet. Surviving members of the expedition are Dr. Klaus Kubiena, Oskar Krammer, Leo Graf and Wolfgang Müller-Jungblut.

*Gurja Himal.* The Tomari Expedition consisted of Yoshimi Yakushi, leader, Nobutaka Ito, Masaaki Nukui, Seiichi Kanayama, Tomokuni Saegi, Hiroyuki Sakai, Akira Inoue and Kenichi Shimoda. They left Pokhara on September 21 and got to the last village of Gurjakhani on the 30th and Base Camp at 13,450 feet in the Kape Khola on October 4. Camp I was established on October 9 at 15,600 feet on the Kape Glacier near a previous British camp. (British attempts were made in 1962 and 1965.) A temporary Camp II was placed at 16,400 feet on the lower end of a tributary glacier, above which avalanche danger complicated route selection. A route was made on the rock wall on the left side of the branch glacier. Camp II was established at 17,400 feet on October 18. On the 20th they climbed a steep rock ridge to an upper snowfield, where Camp III was established on October 22 at 18,850 feet. From there they could see for the first time the west side of Gurja Himal, but they had a difficult time in the deep snow. On October 27 Kanayama, Sakai and the Sherpa Lhakpa Tenzing went to Camp IV at 19,000 feet and two days later to Camp V at 21,150 feet. They climbed to 22,650 feet on October 30 but deep snow and fatigue drove them back. On November 1 Saegi and the Sherpa Lhakpa Tenzing climbed up the tracks and then up a snow and ice