

ascents in the Hindu Kush and Himalaya. Emilio Civis and Antonio Leonart joined me as leader. In the Koh-e-Baba range in the western Hindu Kush we made two first ascents under winter conditions: Koh-e-Urgas (16,437 feet) on April 26 and Koh-e-Ahangaran (16,798 feet) on April 28. (The Indian portion is covered under "India".)

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### Bhutan

*Tongse Debi.* An unnamed 20,000-foot peak was climbed on May 27 by an Indo-Bhutanese team led by Major D. N. Tankha. After leaving Wangduphudrang on May 1, they established Base Camp at 14,000 feet. The King of Bhutan has named the peak Tongse Debi and has decided to establish a mountaineering club in Bhutan.

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### U.S.S.R.

*Pik Stalin, East Face, Pamirs.* A group of 42 foreigners and 50 climbers from all parts of the U.S.S.R. met at a 11,650-foot Base Camp in the Altai valley at the northern foot of 23,407-foot Pik Lenin. Most climbed the usual western or northeastern routes, but there were two fatalities. From July 26 to August 7 two Russians from Leningrad, Jury Ustinov and Oleg Borisenok, and the Bavarians, Toni Hiebeler and Michael Schneider, made the first ascent of the east face of Pik Lenin. They were seven days on the actual face. *Alpinismus* of November, 1969 has a fine picture and fuller account.

*Pamirs, 1968.* There was a great deal of climbing that went on in the U.S.S.R. in 1968. Most remarkable were two ascents in the Pamirs. The 8000-foot southwest wall of Pik Kommunisma (24,590 feet), highest in the country, was climbed for the first time between August 8 to 17, 1968 by E. Ovtchinnikov, W. Gluckov, and W. Ivanov. There were difficulties up to UIAA V. The north face of Pik Bothana (17,225 feet) is 6500 feet high. From August 6 to 10, 1968 it was climbed for the first time by I. Kudiniv, J. Saratov, A. Levin, L. Risaev, W. Lavrushin and E. Abdullaev. They placed 150 pitons. For more details see *Alpinismus* of February and May, 1969.