

route having been fixed with 2000 feet of rope. The ridge from there rose in two steps. The top of the first step, which they called the Helmet, was finally surmounted after the most difficult climbing on ice and ice-covered rock. Camp V was established on its top on January 25. The next day Ferrari and Ravà continued a few rope-lengths higher, but deteriorating weather and climbing difficulties drove them back at about 9650 feet, still some 650 feet from the summit. Carlo Mauri has a fascinating account in *Mountain* of September, 1970.

Cerro Torre, Spanish Attempt. An expedition of the Club Alpí Catalá was led by Joan Créixams early in 1970. They were plagued with bad weather and did not get very high on the ice-covered needle.

Cerro Torre, Ascent by Southwest Face. After the death of Toni Egger on the descent, Cesare Maestri returned to the base of 9908-foot Cerro Torre, stating that the pair had made the first ascent of this fantastic ice-sheathed needle on January 31, 1959. There have been serious doubts expressed by many climbers about whether the claimed ascent was ever completed. In the southern winter of 1970, Maestri returned to the peak with Carlo Claus, Ezio Alimonta, Pietro Vidi, Renato Valentini and Cesarino Fava. This time they again stirred great controversy by taking with them a 150-pound portable jack-hammer for placing bolts. The winter attempt was unsuccessful, but they did on June 18 get to within 650 feet of the summit. Maestri, Claus and Alimonta returned again in November, accompanied by Claudio Baldessari and Daniele Angeli. By November 30 they had bolted their way to 300 feet from the top. On December 1 they climbed a series of little ice towers to reach a point 130 feet below the summit. At 1:45 P.M. on December 3 Maestri, Claus and Alimonta set foot on the highest point, where they left their jack-hammer. They are said to have placed over 1000 bolts!

Paine group, Patagonia. A joint group of climbers of the Universidad de Chile, Santiago and Club Mañke stayed most of January in the Paine massif. Their main goal was Cerro Catedral del Paine, (2300 meters or 7546 feet), located some six miles north of Paine Grande. Two attempts were defeated both by strong winds of some 70 miles per hour and by technical difficulties, which had also driven back a British group a few days before. Subsequently, the Chilean climbers travelled to the Olguín group of rock and ice peaks and made the second ascent of the peak the 1969 Czech expedition had unofficially named "Cerro Ostrava" (c. 7500

feet). The hitherto virgin summit of Cerro Cota (6562 feet) was also climbed. The group was made up of Jorge Quinteros (leader), Gastón Oyarzún, Bernhard Paul and José Troncoso.

HUGO VÁSQUEZ L., *Asociación Universitaria de Andinismo, Santiago.*

Cerro Catedral del Paine. On January 9, 1971 Chris Jackson, Guy Lee, Dave Nicol, Bob Shaw, Bob Smith and I of the British Patagonia Expedition made the first ascent of Cerro Catedral in the Paine group. We followed the west ridge and made the ascent in one push from an ice cave below the south face of the mountain. It was mostly ridge climbing and ropes were left to safeguard the difficult descent. We used no fixed ropes on the ascent except for two lengths to gain the ridge low down via the south face. There were 21 roped pitches and difficulty was UIAA V+, A2. We left the ice cave at four A.M. and reached the summit at six P.M. By this time it was snowing and a strong wind was blowing. The descent was trying due to this wind and spin-drift and we regained the ice cave at 11:30 P.M. All six members of the expedition made the ascent. The next day we were stormbound in the ice cave but managed to get down on January 11. In a season of bad weather, the day of the climb was the best we had had since December 1.

ROGER WHEWELL, *Rucksack Club*

ASIA

Bhutan

Chomolhari. Captain Prem Chand, Instructor Dorje Lhatoo of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Santosh Arora and Sherpa Thondup made the second ascent of Chomolhari (23,930 feet) at 10:25 A.M. on April 23. This most sacred mountain of Bhutan, its second highest, was first climbed on May 21, 1937 by Spencer Chapman and Pasang Dawa Lama. It overlooks the Chumbi valley of Tibet. The expedition was sponsored by the King of Bhutan, who took a personal interest in it. The success was followed by a tragedy the following day when Captains S. L. Kang and Dharam Pal were lost when making a second attempt on the summit. They were both from an Indian Army training team in Bhutan.