

*Cerro Rincón, Fitz Roy Group.* This unclimbed peak ( $49^{\circ}16' S$ ;  $73^{\circ}10' W$ ) lies some 10 miles from Fitz Roy at the western end of the granite intrusion which forms Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre and Pier Giorgio. The main summit (8136 feet) is of ice fortified by ice mushrooms, against which lie several granite needles. The mountain had been unsuccessfully attempted in 1965, twice in 1966 and in 1970; these expeditions failed on the northeast glacier, where all headed for the Portezuelo Cuadrado on the left of the peak and went too far into the center or left, where the glacier is heavily crevassed. Our group consisted of Ismael Palma, Fernando Bosch, Alfredo Fragueiro and me. Because of the weather of the region, we planned a lightning attack from a camp just below the final wall. We flew from Buenos Aires to Río Gallegos on February 13 and reached Base Camp at Piedra del Fraile on the Río Fitz Roy on the 17th. We ascended on February 19 the eight-mile-long, crevassed Glaciar Marconi on its right side to the Morro couloir, where we turned  $90^{\circ}$  to the south to reach the foot of the west face of Pier Giorgio, where we camped. On the 20th we gained 2300 feet on the northeast glacier, which we climbed on its right side; there we waited out two more days of snowstorm in a snow cave. On February 23 Palma and I crossed the bergschrund at its left end and climbed the couloir. We then turned a little left to gain the ridge in order to avoid snow sloughs (it continued to snow hard), but we went back onto the face to avoid the wind. We regained the ridge between the third and fourth mushrooms; the fourth is the summit. We also climbed the sharp subsidiary peak, 150 yards to the west. We reached the summit at two P.M., having gained 1500 feet; the slope was up to  $60^{\circ}$  around the mushrooms. The weather, which had been stormy since our arrival in the region, began to improve at noon. We were back at the snow cave at nine P.M. The weather was fine on the return trip.

CARLOS COMESAÑA, *Centro Andino Buenos Aires*

*Fitz Roy and other Patagonian Peaks.* Our expedition was composed of Ricardo Czerniawski, César Fava, Guillermo Espouey and me. We had hoped to climb the whole west face of Fitz Roy from the Cerro Torre valley, which would have been a new route to the Col de la Silla, where we would have joined the Californian route. On December 8 we set up Base Camp and on the 9th placed Camp I at the foot of the face. Not until December 20 and 21 could we make a first attempt with a bivouac, but we were driven back by high winds. We could see that our route was all exposed to avalanches from the hanging Silla Glacier. We gave up that attempt and felt justified when the *whole* couloir was swept away by an enormous avalanche on December 29. Leaving Base Camp on December 30 we climbed around to the east and reached the Silla from the other side, but winter conditions prevailed and we gave up. . . . The British expedition to Cerro Torre failed because of bad weather. The same was true of the Italian expedition, which attempted

the 4000-foot eastern pillar which was tried several years ago by the French. Yesterday I met Armando Aste, Mariano Frizzera, Sergio Martini and Angelo Miorandi here in Buenos Aires, who told me that they had climbed about one-third of the pillar and had lost all their technical gear in a cave below the face after 20 days of continual snow-storm. A Buenos Aires expedition unsuccessfully attempted the Aguja Mermoz, north of and attached to Fitz Roy. After our attempt, an expedition from Tucumán tried our route but without success.

PETER SKVARČA, *Centro Andino Buenos Aires*

### Chile — Tierra del Fuego

*Monte Sarmiento, Attempt on Unclimbed West Summit, Tierra del Fuego.* November 16 was the only stormless day in the 42 we spent on the expedition. At seven A.M. it stopped raining and the wind dropped at Base Camp on the Canal Magdalena at the northwest base of Sarmiento. We left our tents and climbed through tangled forest, then grass slopes and finally into the zone of rock and snow. From Camp I at 2350 feet we picked up our climbing gear and food and staggered on under heavy loads along a snow and ice ridge and then along the glacier to Vittore Col (3050 feet). Before us lay the Conway Glacier and the north col (4250 feet) where Camp II was set up inside a crevasse. For us the north col up till then had meant two things: wind and storm. But now, at two P.M., in the calm we could see the twin summits of Sarmiento (7710 and 7050 feet) like giant cauliflowers. The col between the two peaks was accessible by climbing a steep ice slope; from there the higher east peak rose above a ridge with apparently impossible ice steps. The western summit seemed more possible except for one 135-foot vertical ice step which barred the ridge. In cloudy but not threatening weather we set out for the col in deep new snow through crevasses and séracs to the foot of the steep slope below the col where at 6000 feet we were only 1000 feet below the summit. Because of high temperatures we waited for a freeze to lessen avalanche danger. At eight o'clock it had frozen enough to proceed, but almost immediately lead-colored clouds spewed over us. We descended to Camp II where we waited for four days before we staggered down to Base Camp, still battered by the storm. Our group was composed of Ezio La Boria, Aldo Bonino, Giuseppe Ferrari and I plus Lieutenant Fernando Martínez and Sergeant Víctor Sáez of the Chilean Army.

GIUSEPPE AGNOLOTTI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

## ASIA

### Nepal

*Makalu, West Ridge.* On February 16 the French expedition to the west ridge of Makalu headed for Nepal. It was composed of Lucien