

Nobuyaki Kaneko, Miss Mutsuko Koyama and me as leader. We climbed the difficult, previously untried west face of Pumori (23,442 feet). Base Camp was established on September 12 at 17,225 feet on the east bank of the Changri Glacier, just west of Kala Pattar. Camp I, on the glacier at the foot of the west face, was set up on September 18. We established Camps II and III on the face at 19,500 and 21,800 feet on September 26 and October 7. Takagi and Kaneko left Camp III at 2:40 A.M. on October 13, reached the top at 9:50 and were back in Camp III at four P.M.

HIROSHI FUJITA, *Alpine Club Unpo, Japan*

Taweche. Having left Kathmandu on March 30 by air for Lukla, we were in Base Camp (16,900 feet) on April 4, Camp I (18,050 feet) on April 5 and Camp II (19,850 feet) on April 12. On April 16 Paul Gendre, Louis DuBost, Jacques Brugirard, Jean Christian Michel and I climbed to the summit of Taweche (21,463 feet). (This very difficult peak has been unsuccessfully tried several times. In 1963 David Dornan and Tom Frost, Americans, New Zealander Jim Wilson and Sherpa Ang Temba got to within 200 feet of the top.—*Editor.*) The mixed ice and rock route was on the 4600-foot-high southeast face. *After* our ascent, the mountain was declared taboo. The Nepalese have refused to let any members of the expedition visit Nepal for from four to seven years and have fined us US \$600.

YANNICK SEIGNEUR, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Further note on the French ascent of Taweche. This was an unauthorized ascent of a peak, not on the permitted list, by a French group led by Yannick Seigneur, who had gone to Khumbu to investigate the possibilities of high-altitude skiing from 6000 meters—downwards. In no way were they an official mountaineering expedition. As of June 1 the matter is still under investigation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. M. Seigneur escaped immediate punishment by promising the Ministry on Friday that he would give a full explanation on Sunday—and by leaving Nepal on Saturday!

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

Churen Himal. A Japanese team led by Hiroaki Yamada abandoned its attempt to climb Churen Himal (24,184 feet) by its previously unclimbed west ridge when four of its six members became sick. Earlier, on May 12, two members had made an unsuccessful attempt on the summit from Camp IV at 21,925 feet and had reached 22,400 feet before being turned back by bad weather.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*