

mit (22,077 feet). The only woman in the party, Okada, and I climbed to the top on July 24.

MASAKI AOKI, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Latok II Tragedy. Our expedition attempted Latok II (23,340 feet) by the west ridge, previously attempted by the Japanese in 1975. We were Don Morrison, Pat Fearnough, Pat Green, Tony Riley and I. We reached Skardu on May 23 and established Base Camp on June 1 near the junction of the Uzun Brakk and an unnamed glacier. Further camps were established below the slopes leading to the west ridge col and, after a delay by bad weather, by June 20 upon the west and east ends of that col. The steep step at the base of the ridge was climbed by Green, Fearnough and me in the next two days. As expected support did not materialize, Fearnough returned to Base to find that Don Morrison had been killed on the night of June 21 in a midnight fall into a crevasse. He had been coming up with Riley to join the push up the ridge with a considerable load. Frozen conditions had allowed rapid unroped progress up the path below Camp I. Don attempted to cross a snow bridge and fell through. Green and I pressed on in ignorance of the tragedy until forced to retire by lack of supplies on June 26. We met the other two in the couloir leading to the col and we all withdrew from the mountain, reaching Skardu on July 10. Our high point was probably similar to that of the Japanese attempt. From the long mid-slope of the west ridge there remains a great deal of difficult climbing in the upper sections, with a combination of steep rock and ice and gendarmes for about 2000 feet. There were numerous problems resultant upon precedents of overpayment and uniquely short stages even for the Karakoram, both largely generated by Japanese and to some degree American expeditions.

PAUL NUNN, *Alpine Club*

Latok II. We had applied for the Ogre and as second choice, one of the Latok peaks. As permission for the Ogre had already been granted the British, the Pakistani government authorized Latok I (23,440 feet*), which lies between the Choktoi and Biafo Glaciers.

* Professor Bergamaschi has recently been kind enough to send us the results of the survey made by his expedition. Triangulation indicates different relative altitudes of the peaks of the group. Latok II appears to be the highest; it is 66 meters or 217 feet higher than Latok I and 304 meters or 997 feet higher than Latok III. The expedition gives a new altitude of 7151 meters or 23,461 feet for Latok II. This is based on aneroid barometer readings at Base Camp. Even though corrected for temperature and relative humidity, the Editor's experience in the past makes him reject such a measurement as absolutely definitive. However, we have no reason to doubt the comparative altitudes of the three peaks.