

*Saraghrar, Southwest Buttress Attempt.* The difficulties on the southwest buttress of 24,075-foot Saraghrar do not decrease all along the great buttress. The foot of the wall is at 16,575 feet, making the wall 7500 feet high. Spaniards made a first attempt in 1975. (See *A.A.J.*, 1976, pp. 547-8 for photo and text.) After 39 days on the wall, the eight climbers had placed a camp at the foot of the wall and three on it. Bad weather and lack of time turned us back at 19,750 feet. In 1977 Jordi Pons, Jaime Altadill, José Manuel Anglada, Joan Cerdá, Joan Claramunt, Jordi Colomer, Joan Massons, José Luis Pérez, Dr. Anton Rañe, Genis Roca, Francisco Sabat and I as leader reached Base Camp at Totiraz Noku (13,650 feet) on June 24. We passed the 1975 high point and continued along a very severe section to where the buttress looks less steep. During the following weeks we placed Camps V and VI, overcoming new difficulties. At 20,850 feet the buttress butted into the wall and it became obvious that on this difficult section camps would have to be suspended from ropes; more food, ropes and gear would have to be brought from the bottom of the wall. Therefore the attempt was given up. We left Base Camp on August 2.

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*Phuparash.* The members of the Charlotte Mason College Himalayan Expedition were Dave Robbins, deputy leader, Linda Rutland, Mike Rafferty, Tony Mercer, John Whittock, Dr. John Burslem, Captain Kayani, liaison officer, and I as leader. The original objective was the north ridge of Diran (Minapin) but there were problems in gaining entry to the Hunza valley. We therefore took our secondary objective, virgin Phuparash Central (22,400 feet). We flew to Skardu by military plane on July 29. On the 30th we drove in two jeeps 110 miles to Sasli. We arrived at Base Camp on August 1 at 10,000 feet at the head of the valley to the north of Darchan. We used 21 porters. From there we could see our objective, the south ridge. By the 4th Advanced Base was fully stocked at 14,000 feet. Above, only snow holes and bivouacs were used. The lower glacier and icefall were penetrated and Camp I, a snow hole, was established on August 7. The next section was via a couloir to an upper plateau and Camp II, another snow hole at 18,000 feet. From there Burslem, Whittock and Robbins on August 14 mounted an alpine-type assault on the south ridge. This was almost totally ice climbing up to Scottish grade 4. They reached the summit on August 18 and returned to Advanced Base on the 21st. This was a fast ascent using modern techniques. Only 200 meters of fixed rope were used on a lower section.

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