

southwest ridge. We fixed ropes and gained the ridge crest to place Camp I at 18,700 feet on the 27th. We continued to prepare the route up the ridge over the second rock peak, and on October 3 placed Camp II at 18,925 feet in a col. The knife-edged ridge got much steeper above 20,000 feet. On October 13 we pitched Camp III at 21,000 feet. We had to remove 1300 feet of fixed rope from between Base Camp and Camp I to supplement the rope we still had. Above Camp III we left the ridge and climbed the south face to the right. On October 14 and 15 we prepared the route up the 60° to 70° face. On October 16 Mitani and Nakanishi left Camp III at four A.M. and stood on the summit (23,685 feet) at 8:45. On the 17th Miyagawa and I climbed to the summit as well.

TERUYUKI KOUNO, *Meiji University, Japan*

*Nilgiri South.* Our Shinshu University Expedition was composed of Taichi Fujimatsu, Hideki Yoshida, Nobuhito Morota, Seiji Tanaka, Yoshiaki Kato and me as leader. We left Pokhara on September 5 and got to Base Camp at 13,300 feet beside the Miristi Glacier on the 16th. We placed Camp I at 15,600 feet on September 24. There is a big icefall that descends from between Nilgiri Central and Nilgiri South. We pitched Camp II at 17,900 feet in the middle of this on October 1. Camp III at 20,175 feet was established on October 8 on a plateau on the east ridge of Nilgiri South. On the 10th all of us climbed the snow face and ridge to the summit (22,438 feet), completing the first ascent.

KAZUO MITSUI, *Shinshu University, Japan*

*Tukuche Peak.* The Nagai Alpine Club of Japan Expedition to Tukuche Peak was led by Teruo Kurosawa and had Kensaku Takeda as climbing leader. They attempted in the post-monsoon season an all new route up the southeast ridge from the Kali Kandaki valley. However they failed at 17,000 feet after several minor and one serious accident to Sherpas.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Dhaulagiri, South Buttress.* At 11:30 in the morning of May 10, the long-awaited radio message came from Toshiaki Koyayashi that he and Tatsuji Shigeno were the first two successful climbers of our expedition to reach the summit of Dhaulagiri (26,795 feet). This was our second trial; in 1975 we had attempted the same route but an avalanche had killed two members and three Sherpas at 20,000 feet. The route lies up the buttress at the extreme left of the south face. We set off on February 27 with 450 porters and got to Base Camp at 12,000 feet above the Maryandi Khola on March 11. Camp I was established at 17,000 feet on March 28, Camp II at 19,000 feet on April 7 and Camp III at 21,325

feet on April 17. We were careful to avoid avalanche zones in the lower section. The 800-foot section of rock bands between Camps II and III had tremendous difficulties. Even with wire ladders, only three out of 14 Sherpas could climb this part. A 135-foot rappel was 12 feet away from the wall. On April 21 Katsumi Naganuma was on reconnaissance but he became very weak, tried to climb back to Camp III but died before the doctor could reach him. The climbing was of such great difficulty that his body could not be carried down. We continued and Camp IV was pitched at 23,450 feet on May 3 and Camp V at 24,600 feet on May 5. The final stage of the wall above Camp IV was a vast slab of nearly vertical rock, which was much more difficult than we had thought from distant observation. The first summit party reached the top on May 10. On May 11 Seiji Shimuzu, Yasuji Kato, Hiroshi Yoshino and Sherpa Ang Kami repeated the climb to the summit. The latter used no oxygen. Other members of the party were Takuo Hirai, Yasunori Hirahara, Koichi Mikami, Yoshimasa Sasaki, Dr. Matsuhisa Maeda, Yoshiko Kato and I as leader.

TAKASHI AMEMIYA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Dhaulagiri, South Buttress Attempt.* Our expedition of guide-teachers of the ENSA was composed of Anselme Baud, Pierre Blanc, Jean Coudray, Maurice Cretton, Charles Daubas, Yvon Masino, Georges Payot, Raymond Renaud, Jean-Paul Vion and me as leader. We attempted the south buttress of Dhaulagiri. The 7600-foot-high buttress lies to the west of the south ridge climbed by the Japanese in the spring of 1978. It rises from a snow plateau at 17,000 feet which forms the South Col up to the height of 24,600 feet where it meets the southwest low-point of the summit snow slopes. The buttress has four distinct sections. From 17,000 to 18,700 feet it resembles the Hörnli Ridge on the Matterhorn. From 18,700 to 20,000 feet it is mixed climbing like certain Alpine north faces. From 20,000 to 22,650 feet it is a long snow ridge cut by vertical rock steps and ending in three rock towers of severe difficulty. The fourth section, from 22,650 to 24,600 feet, was essentially a rock buttress of extreme difficulty. We left Pokhara on September 8 and took two weeks to get to Base Camp at 12,000 feet, at times under torrential late monsoon rains. After reconnaissance and fixing 1300 feet of rope, on September 25 we established Camp I on the South Col plateau at 17,000 feet. Camp II at 18,500 feet and Camp III at 20,000 feet were established on October 9 and 20. Camp IV was established on October 29 at the foot of the final buttress. Before November 4 several attempts were made on the buttress, but the conditions had become wintry after October 20 and the attempt had to be given up. A high point of 23,625 feet had been reached.

YVES POLLET-VILLARD, *Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme*