

tendon in his leg. This pair was back in Base Camp on May 5. As the weather deteriorated, all began to worry about the north-face pair. Search parties failed to show any signs of the climbers. By May 15 it was obvious that they could not have survived. The last report of them came from a Japanese expedition which had seen with binoculars two tiny black spots at about 21,325 feet still moving upwards on May 4.

MAREK BRNIAK, *Klub Wysokogórski, Kraków, Poland*

*Nilgiri Central.* Our Matsuyama University Expedition was composed of Keizo Shigematsu, Jun'ichi Yuyama, Kohichi Sakata, Toshiro Hamada, Yasuo Tsuda, Dr. Toru Itano and me as leader. We flew by helicopter from Chhoya in the Kali Gandaki valley to Base Camp, as did the French Annapurna ski and the Austrian Fang expeditions, since porters refused to cross the Thulobugin Pass covered with snow. Base Camp was at 13,300 feet near the tongue of the Nilgiri Glacier not far from the Base Camp of expeditions on the north of Annapurna. We placed camps at 15,700 and 17,900 feet up the branch glacier between Nilgiri Central and South. This has two large, severe icefalls but above, its névé widens, enclosed by the southeast ridge of Nilgiri Central and the main ridge between Nilgiri Central and South. Our route to the névé was the same as that of the Japanese who climbed Nilgiri South in 1978. Our Camp III was placed on April 25 at 19,850 feet in a col above the névé on the southeast ridge. On April 30 Sakata and Tsuda reached the summit (22,769 feet) at 11:25, having climbed the southeast ridge to the main ridge south of the summit. They were supported by Yuyama, Hamada and me, who also got to the top on May 1 after a bivouac at the junction of the ridges.

MASAKI AOKI, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Nilgiri Central Attempt.* A post-monsoon Japanese expedition was led by Tsutomu Nishimura. They reached only about 19,000 feet before giving up the attempt in late October.

*Nilgiri North Attempt.* Two Japanese, Kenzo Ichikawa and Nobuyaki Takeda, attempted 23,166-foot Nilgiri North by a new route, the southwest face, but were stopped on September 30 because of bad weather and because the route above 19,350 feet seemed too dangerous.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Patal Hiunchuli Attempt.* A seven-woman Japanese expedition was given up after Hiroko Fujii, Noriko Yamazaki and a Sherpa were killed on October 9 by an avalanche low on Patal Hiunchuli (20,890 feet). The expedition, led by Hiroko Asano, was attempting the southeast face.