

On August 7 and 8 Jiří Růžička and Vilém Schwab climbed M2 (21,076 feet) by its east ridge, which had some 50° ice, and continued along the ridge to M3. Cídl and Bednařík climbed the 1962 Polish route on Kohe Nadir Shah (22,356 feet) on August 9 and 10. The last acclimatization climb was made by Beneš, Tallová and me when on August 12 and 13 we did the first ascent of the north face of Kohe Nadir Shah. The 3500-foot wall was mixed and with some 70° ice. On August 16 Bednařík made the first ascent solo of the 5000-foot northeast face of Kohe Shakhaur, which had difficult climbing of 65° ice, reached the northwest ridge at 21,650 feet and continued along the ridge to the summit (23,347 feet). Two pairs, Růžička-Schwab and Cídl-Skříčka began on August 15 to ascend the French route on the north ridge of Kohe Shakhaur. The first pair reached the top on August 18 and the second on the 19th. On August 18 Krch, Tallová and I began the first ascent of the northwest face, a route between the two previously mentioned ones. We started late and bivouacked under the rock buttress. Although Tallová was struck by rockfall, we completed the climb, some on 70° ice. The most difficult climb was that of the 10,000-foot face of Shakhaur, which was avalanche-threatened. It was done by Beneš and Bednařík on August 21 to 23. After reaching the summit, they continued along the ridge to Udren Zom (23,396 feet), returned and descended the French ridge. On August 25 Růžička and Schwab climbed Kohe-Hawar (20,286 feet) from the south.

SYLVA TALLA, *Czechoslovakia*

China—Tibet

Shisha Pangma Reconnaissance. At the end of May Manfred Abelein, Fritz Zintl and I were in China and Tibet to prepare our joint expedition. We had to travel by jeep over 500 miles from Lhasa to the Shisha Pangma Base Camp to make plans.

GÜNTER STURM, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Mount Everest Reconnaissance from the North, 1978. Fifteen Iranian and twenty Chinese climbers made a reconnaissance of the North Col route on Mount Everest in 1978. They brought 185 tons of materials and were supported by several hundred. Base Camp was set up on May 7, 1978. Camps were at 18,000, 19,700 and 21,325 feet on the East Rongbuk Glacier and on the North Col at 22,925 feet. Nine Chinese and two Iranians reached 24,600 feet on May 21, but the early monsoon prevented their going higher. (The main expedition, planned for 1979, was called because of internal problems in Iran.)

Mount Everest, Reconnaissance from the North. In preparation for the joint Japanese-Chinese expedition to the northern side of Mount

Everest, the Japanese sent a nine-man team under the leadership of Dr. Junsei Saito. Base Camp was set up on the Rongbuk Glacier at 17,900 feet on September 23. Kazunari Takami, Takashi Ozaki and Goto Isono scouted out a new route above the Central Rongbuk Glacier, where they set up camps at 18,200 and 20,500 feet. They fixed 1000 feet of rope on the 60° mixed face. They compared the difficulty of the lower part to that on the southwest face of Everest. They reached a high point of 21,500 feet. Ryoten Hasegawa, Kotaro Yokoyama and six Chinese went to the traditional northeast ridge from the East Rongbuk. They established Camp III at 21,325 feet below the North Col on October 10. While six climbers were approaching the North Col on the 12th, a wind-slab avalanche swept three Chinese, Wang Hong Bao, Nima Thaxi and Luo Lan, into a crevasse, where they were killed. Hasegawa barely escaped and was injured. They left Base Camp on October 25.

SADAO TAMBE, *Japanese Mountaineering Association*

Bodies on Mount Everest. The accident occurred on October 12. Three Chinese died. Among them was Wang Hong Bao, who had climbed five times to the North Col and had reached over 8000 meters. The day before the accident, Mr. Wang told our Japanese member R. Hasegawa that he had seen two corpses when he was a member of the 1975 Chinese Everest expedition. One was near the lateral moraine below Camp III on the East Rongbuk Glacier. This might have been Wilson. The other was at 8100 meters (26,576 feet) on the northeast ridge. Mr. Wang could not speak English, but he repeated the word "English! English!" to Mr. Hasegawa. When he had touched the clothing, it had broken to bits and was blown off by the wind. Then he had put snow on the body and buried it. (This may well have been the body of either Mallory or Irvine.—Editor.)

HIROYUKI SUZUKI, *Japanese Alpine Club*

USSR

Pik Kommunizma. In 1978, a seven-member team of Americans consisting of Dana Isherwood, leader, Gil Harder, Maynard Cohick, Richard Soaper, Sallie Greenwood, Diana Dee and Errol Flagor joined the Russian International Climbing Camp in the Pamir to climb Pik Kommunizma (24,590 feet), the highest peak in the Soviet Union. We went on July 22 by helicopter to Base Camp near the Fortembek Glacier at 13,200 feet. On July 26, Camp I was occupied at 16,500 feet on a rocky ridge leading to the Firn Plateau. Camp II (19,300 feet; July 31) and Camp III (19,800 feet; August 2) were established on the Firn Plateau about seven miles apart. Two additional high camps at 21,500 feet on the ridge lead-