

fixed 2500 feet of rope on the headwall over a total period of twelve days. From the bergschrund we ascended a central rib of sugary snow, and about 1000 feet up traversed left underneath the large upper rock band over difficult mixed ground. We eventually found a 60° narrow ice couloir which ended just 150 feet short of the col, but there remained a steep section of loose snow and rock. This was finished in the dark, after a one-day climb from Camp I, and we spent the night in the open at 20,300 feet, just on the other side of the col. A snow cave was made the next day, and from there we went in a single push for the north summit (7060 meters, 23,163 feet) after fixing a short section above the camp. The north ridge was relatively easy terrain averaging 45°, and we made rapid progress. We were forced to turn back while still early in the day, however, because of severe winds and incipient cold injuries. It was not until later that we realized we turned around at 6950 meters, only 100 meters from our goal. The winds did not abate, and we rappelled the headwall, taking our fixed ropes with us.

PETER HACKETT, M.D.

*Baruntse.* A Japanese expedition from Utsunomiya University led by Tetsuyo Saito successfully climbed the south ridge of Baruntse, the first-ascent route. The summit (7220 meters, 23,688 feet) was reached on September 26 by Noriaki Ujiie, Motoi Nagashima and Sherpa Pemba Norbu, on September 27 by Takashi Okumura and Isamu Nobuyasu and on September 28 by Saito and a Sherpa from Camp IV.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Baruntse Winter Ascent.* As we go to press, we receive news of the first winter ascent of Baruntse by a Japanese expedition from Hokkaido led by Kazuo Hayashi. After an approach up the Barun Glacier, they set up Base Camp at 16,350 feet on December 1. They climbed the southeast ridge. Camp IV at 22,000 feet was established on December 13. On December 15 Jun Hamana, Koichi Ikenaga, Osamu Hanai, Akiya Ishimura and two Sherpas reached the summit. (See Iwa To Yuki, N° 80, page 107.)

*Ama Dablam, North Ridge.* Paddy Freaney, Peter McNally, Graham Elder, Rob Hall, Bob Murie and I walked to our 17,000-foot Base Camp, covering 180 miles in 24 days, with a side trip to the Everest Base Camp for acclimatization. Starting on the north ridge on September 15, we reached Camp I at 19,500 feet eight days later. With the aid of fixed ropes it took five hours from Base Camp to Camp I. We then used 17 days to fix ropes to Camp II at 21,500 feet. We then spent four days

fixing rope to within 500 feet of the top. On October 18 Freaney and I reached the summit (6854 meters, 22,495 feet) at 11:30 A.M. On October 21 Elder, Hall and King reached the summit. During the next three days we removed the camps and all the fixed rope below Camp I. (This was the route of the French in 1979.—*Editor.*)

RUSSELL BRICE, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Ama Dablam, North Face.* A Japanese expedition led by Kasuji Kato climbed a new route on Ama Dablam, the north face. The route was threatened by avalanches and Hisao Fukushima was hit and had to be evacuated. They established three high camps. All the other five members reached the summit (6856 meters, 22,294 feet) on September 8, 9 or 10.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Everest, Basque Expedition.* Our expedition was composed of Juan Ignacio Lorente, leader, Juan Ramón Arrue, Xabier Erro, Xavier Garayoa, Luis María Saenz de Olazagoitia, Angel Rosen, Emilio Hernando, Enrique de Pablos, Felipe Uriarte, José Urbieto, Ricardo Gallardo and me. We left Lukla on February 24 and set up Base Camp on March 18 after several acclimatization climbs. After failing to open a route in the center of the Khumbu Icefall, we advanced close to the slopes of Nuptse and placed Camp I at 20,000 feet on March 27. A Sherpa was injured in the icefall and had to be evacuated by helicopter. Camp II or Advanced Base was established on April 3. Despite high winds, ropes were fixed on the Lhotse Face, where Camp III was placed on April 11 at 24,150 feet. We reached the South Col on the 19th and stocked Camp IV there in the next days. On May 4 Rosen, Gallardo, Garayoa and Sherpa Nima Temba got to the south summit but were driven back by bad weather. On May 7 Erro and Pemba Tsering were halted on the very col by the weather. On May 14 Lorente, three Sherpas and I set out from the South Col at 3:30 A.M. Two hours later Lorente had to give up because of not being fit. Pasang Temba and I continued on, sometimes in knee-deep snow, and got to the south summit at one P.M. Hillary Step caused no particular problems other than the soft snow and at 3:30 we reached the top. Our oxygen gave out on the descent at the foot of the Hillary Step. Pasang Temba had a frightening and exhausting fall when a cornice broke just below the step, but he was unhurt. We bivouacked in a crevasse in a snowstorm near the south summit. We spent a long night without food, water or bivouac gear but descended unharmed the next day to the South Col.

MARTÍN ZABALETA, *Euskal Herriko Mendizale Elkargoa, Spain*