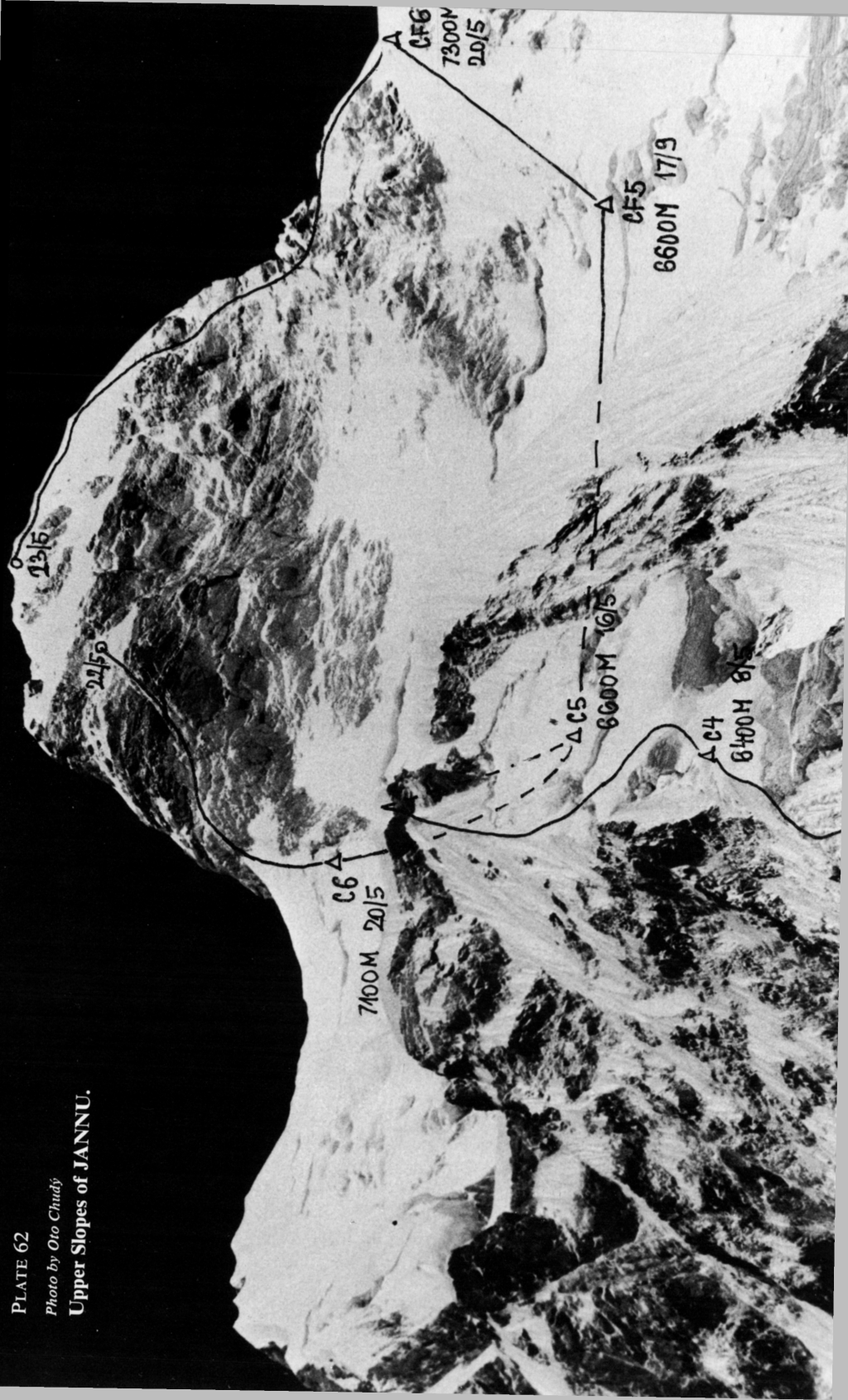


and with grass and running water. We could see the stone tomb of Pache, buried by an avalanche in 1905, the inscription in memory of the Mexicans who left their high camp never to return, and the piles of garbage and refuse of 18 Japanese and 22 Sherpas of last spring. We began reconnaissance right away. We found Japanese fixed ropes and German ladders up to Camp I. Above, the monsoon had swept all away. Between September 9 and October 9 we five Frenchmen and two Sherpas established Camp I at 20,000 feet in the cwm between the two sérac areas, Camp II at 22,950 feet on the second step and Camp III at 24,950 feet at the foot of the couloir that leads to the summit ridge. In contrast to the weather in western Nepal, we had constant good weather except for a five-day snowstorm at the end of September. The later the season, the more the wind blew. We decided that Pamentier and Ricouard were best acclimatized, and on October 15 they left Camp III just after midnight and reached the summit at three P.M. They found a Japanese flag and an oxygen bottle there. (We did not use oxygen.) They were not roped on the descent. Less fatigued, Ricouard went ahead and out of sight. At sunset Pamentier got back to Camp III and thought his companion must have gone on to join Pellé, the two Sherpas and me at Camp II. At 4:30 P.M., while descending from Camp II to Camp I, Gaby saw something fall in the great couloir. He tried to think it was a pack, considering the speed of the fall and the lack of steepness, but he was nervous all night. On the morning of the 16th, we sent the Sherpas up to congratulate the pair, but they found Ricouard's body at the turn of the great couloir. Our friend must have slipped. We buried him in the nearest crevasse. We decided to give up the expedition and left Base Camp on October 21.

MICHEL BERRUX, *Club Alpin Français*

*Jannu, Southwest Ridge.* Our expedition, Dr. Laurenc Divald, Daniel Bakoš, Robert Gálffy (son of the leader of our joint Kanchenjunga expedition), Oto Chudý, Ľudovít Chrenka, Jidro Martiš, Ján Špánik, Ivan Vozárik and I as leader, made a new route on Jannu. Two years ago we unsuccessfully attempted the southwest ridge, failing some 500 feet below the summit. On April 19 we all left Base Camp on Dudh Pohari at 14,450 feet for Camp I with 45-pound loads, walking up the Yamatari Glacier to the base of the 6500-foot-high buttress, the foot of our ridge. Hard work began on the 21st in the icefall, the first real difficulty and surely the most difficult section of our route. In two days of doubtful weather, we reached the side basin to the left of the ridge and the site of Camp II at 17,725 feet. On April 24 work began in the 350-foot-high V+ chimney, leading us back to the ridge, where we found fixed ropes from our 1979 expedition. Parties of two climbed from Camp II, fixed ropes and the same day descended to Base Camp to rest. Camp III



was placed at 19,350 feet. Mixed climbing led to an icefield at 21,000 feet, where Camp IV was pitched on May 8. Climbing above Camp IV ended in a 100-foot overhang which gained us the top of the buttress at 22,150 feet. We climbed over the top and onto the Throne Glacier, where we had Camp V at 23,300 feet. It was May 16. We agreed to divide forces. Martiš, Chrenka and Špánik would push straight up the left side of the face, as we had tried in 1979. Bakoš and Gálffy would traverse the Throne Glacier to the right to join the original French south-ridge route. They placed a temporary Camp V of their own and Camp VI on the south ridge. After their first attempt failed, Bakoš had to descend to Base Camp, ill and exhausted. On May 23 Divald, Gálffy and Vozárik reached the summit (7710 meters, 25,294 feet). Meanwhile the other party pushed up the summit face. On May 22 they got to within 325 feet of the top, but, exhausted, they needed a day's rest at Camp VI. On May 24 came the erroneous forecast from Radio Nepal. We left the ridge, just to see more clear days from far away as we left the mountain. (Translated by Oto Chudý.)

ADAM BLAŽEJ, *James, Slovak Mountaineering Association,  
Czechoslovakia*

*Jannu.* Our team of the Basque Mountain Federation consisted of Angel María Abrego, leader, Iñaki Aldaia, Xabier Muru, Patxi Senosiain, Josema Casimiro and me as doctor. We had two high-altitude Sherpas, Ang Kami and Ang Nima. We established Base Camp at the usual site at 14,600 feet on March 27. Camps I to VI were established at 15,750, 17,725, 19,350, 21,000, 22,650 and 23,950 feet on March 30, April 1, 9, 22, 27 and May 4 respectively. We followed the 1962 French first-ascent route (followed by the Japanese in 1974) except between Camps I and III. The French climbed the whole rock ridge west of the glacier from Camp I. We continued up the glacier to Camp II. Above Camp II we climbed a couloir to the rock ridge, which we followed to come out on the glacier above the icefall. The latter, which had been ascended by the Japanese, was impassable because of huge crevasses. We had one accident but without serious consequences. At four A.M. on April 19 an avalanche, caused by the breaking of a sérac on the "Tête du Butoir" ("Head of the Railroad Buffer"), swept through and leveled Camp III. The two in the camp were unharmed. All the Basques and the two high-altitude Sherpas reached the summit (7710 meters, 25,295 feet) in a single attack, having been forced by the weather to join the two summit teams into one. The weather was not good and it snowed almost every day. We fixed 6500 feet of rope, principally on the "Tête du Butoir" and the "Arête de la Dentelle" ("Lacework Ridge") and the snowfield that joined Camps V and VI. We used 60 ice screws, 30 snow pickets and 10 rock pitons. We used no