

Gálfy made the first ski descent, skiing down the same ridge to the end of the glacier at 16,400 feet in three hours. The next day they climbed back up to 19,000 feet to help evacuate a sick climber. They were then helicoptered to the Fontambek Glacier at 13,125 feet. On July 30 Rajtar and František Compel climbed some 7000 feet up the Burevestnik Buttress to bivouac at 20,000 feet. The next day they skied eight miles across the Pamir Plateau to bivouac at 20,000 feet below Pik Dushanbe, which they climbed on August 1 to bivouac on the summit at 22,650 feet. From there Rajtar soloed Pik Kommunizma (7495 meters, 24,590 feet) and skied down to 20,000 feet. On the 3rd they crossed the plateau, descended the buttress and returned to Fontambek Base Camp. Rajtar was helicoptered to 13,450 feet on the Achik Tash Glacier, which he ascended to Pik Razdelna, where he bivouacked on August 5. He then soloed Pik Lenin (7134 meters, 23,406 feet) in four hours. He skied down the northwest ridge to 22,800 feet and turned north onto the face. He completed the ski of 10,000 vertical feet in two hours and 25 minutes. The slopes were up to 48°.

OTO CHUDÝ, *Czechoslovakia*

Fanskiye Gory, Western End of Pamir-Alai Chain. A strong 10-man expedition of the Czechoslovak Mountaineering Federation was led by Petr Schnábl. They made eleven ascents, six of them firsts. The new routes follow. Jiří Martiš and Petr Valovičon from July 22 to 26 made a new 6500-foot route on the northwest face of Chapdara (5157 meters, 16,919 feet; UIAA VI, A2). It was similar to the south face of the Marmolada. Josef Rakoncaj and Miroslav Šmíd climbed the left side of the west face of Bodkhona (5304 meters, 17,402 feet; VI+, A2) from July 23 to 26. This 5000-foot-high rock face is vertical or overhanging for 3250 feet. Igor Koller and Radovan Velíšek climbed the Great Groove on this face (VI+, A1) from July 25 to 28. On July 27 Karel Jakeš and Bohuslav Mrozek climbed the 3000-foot-high north face of Soan (4750 meters, 15,584 feet), which was 60° ice with pitches of 80°. Šmíd soloed two new routes. On July 31 he made a new route on the right of the north face of Maria (5000 meters, 16,404 feet; V), 3525 feet of ice up to 80°. On August 5 and 6 he climbed the great couloir on the left of the north face of Miraly (5170 meters, 16,962 feet; VI with ice up to 80°). The Fanskiye Gory Mountains are a small but spectacular group of inaccessible-looking summits and pinnacles. They offer many climbing problems of high standard on both rock and ice.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Belukha, Katun Range, Altai Mountains, Siberia. Nine Austrian and two Czechoslovakian mountaineers were invited to see this marvelous mountain region. Base Camp was installed by the Soviet Sports Committee at Lake Ak-Kem at 6650 feet. We were there from July 17 to August 15. On July 26 all members reached the top of Belukha (4506 meters, 14,783 feet), the heavily



PLATE 85

Photo by Leo Graf

**East and West Peaks of BELUKHA
from Ptk Delone.**

glaciated highest point in the Soviet Altai Mountains. We climbed over Delone (4200 meters, 13,780 feet) and then ascended the northeast ridge. We had two high camps and took seven days in all. This was the first visit by foreigners. We also climbed other summits and enjoyed the very beautiful scenery and especially the warm hospitality of Soviet mountaineers. The good experiences of this experimental expedition will probably lead to the installation of another International Mountain Camp—Altai '83 in the Katun and the Chuiski Mountains. Inquiries should be directed to Director M. Monastyrski, USSR Sports Committee, Skateryni per. 4, 121069 Moscow, USSR.

FRIDEBERT WIDDER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Caucasus, International Mountaineering Camp, July session. After a week of travel from Helsinki to Tallinn, Leningrad and Moscow, Bill Sumner and I were joined by Americans Dick and Louise McGowan and 52 climbers from six other countries to participate in the July Session of the Soviet-sponsored International Mountaineering Camp in the Caucasus. In Moscow we met and were given a hearty send-off by famed Soviet climber-scientist, Eugene Gippenreiter. Our already emotional Soviet experience continued for three more weeks, based in the resort town of Cheget in the Baksan Valley nestled between Asia and Europe. A well-organized staff made every effort to make our experience safe and fulfilling. Although July brought unsettled weather, we spent our first week on a trek over Mestia Pass (3980 meters) into the heart of Soviet alpinism, the land of Svanetia. We survived hearty Georgian hospitality with the McGowans and two Russian companions. After a couple of days we left the medieval town of Mestia and returned to Cheget over Donguz Arun Pass (3060 meters). During our second week, we ascended to the Priute Hut (4200 meters) on Elbrus, and after two days of waiting for better weather and undergoing "passive" acclimatization, we climbed the west summit (5642 meters) of this popular peak (the highest in Europe) with Czechs Pavel and Hana Danielka and Soviets Vasily Elagin and Sergei Penzov. For our last week we set our sights on the jewel of the Caucasus, Ushba (4710 meters). We were left alone to seek out this statuesque, double-spired granite peak. We awaited better weather while camped on the Ushba Plateau and on the third day had a lucky weather break. We ascended the classic ice faces and long corniced ridge of the northern summit of Ushba in what was felt by the Soviets to be the first American ascent. As happens so often, the freedom to travel to the mountains of the world had afforded us the opportunity to experience far greater events and to be with peoples whose common interest in the mountains had bared similar hopes and desires for peace with each other. As Dr. Gippenreiter had so aptly stated, "if only our leaders could meet on such summits and share such feelings."

ROBERT B. SCHOENE