

weather. Generally the weather was poor, cloudy and windy and it snowed every day.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Himalchuli Tragedy.* A nine-man Japanese expedition, led by Hisatoshi Takabayashi, hoped to make a new route on Himalchuli, the south face to the west ridge. Shunji Nishida and two Sherpas reached 21,325 feet on the west face on September 30 where Camp III was to be pitched. Bad weather intervened. On October 6 four men were going up to this site when one Japanese slipped and pulled the other three down with him. They fell 650 feet and Masayuki Fujita and Nobuhiro Hase were killed. This ended the attempt.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu Tragedy.* A heavy blow struck the Croatian Manaslu expedition from Yugoslavia led by Vinko Mareveć when on April 24 Nejc (Jernej) Zaplotnik and Ante Bučan were killed in an avalanche of rock and ice. Their companion, Srećko Gregov was badly injured. They were only 100 meters above Camp I at 14,450 feet on the Manaslu Glacier. The team was hoping to make a new route, via the dangerous south face and then the south ridge. They already had established four high camps and had reached a high point of 23,300 feet. The attempt was given up after the accident. Zaplotnik, a Slovene, was one of the foremost Himalayan climbers. He had made new routes on three 8000ers: Makalu's south face, Hidden Peak's southwest ridge and Mount Everest's entire west ridge.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planiska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Manaslu, South Face.* An expedition of guides of the German Alpine Club (DAV) Mountain and Ski School had hoped to climb the unascended south ridge of Manaslu. They had Base Camp at 13,125 feet. They climbed a rock buttress to establish Camp I at 17,050 feet. Camp II was at 18,700 feet at the point where they would leave the south-face route climbed by Messner in 1972 for their new route. They continued up the south ridge, placing Camps III and IV at 21,650 and 24,275 feet. In the first week of October, a dump of gear was covered and lost in a three-day snowstorm. When leader Günther Härter, Uwe Schelhas and Sherpa Ang Dorje set out from Camp IV on October 18, they had only five rock pitons, two ice screws and one rope, hardly enough for the very difficult climbing above. At 24,600 feet they gave up, realizing that they lacked equipment and time. They descended to Camp II from which they would make the second ascent of Messner's south-face route. They set out on October 20, each climber carrying a 45-pound pack. They climbed unroped since belaying would have taken too much time. They bivouacked at 21,650 and 24,275 feet. This last bivouac was in a snow-filled crevasse that gave some protection from the wind, which was generally violent. In the morning of October 22, Peter Popall was in