

our final assault in mid-May, supported by Juan Pardo and Luis Garcia, placing Camps VI and VII at 26,400 and 27,325 feet. The summit team, Claudio Lucero, Iván Vigoroux, Dagoberto Peña and I, trapped by high winds, stayed three days and nights at Camp VII without artificial oxygen, which caused all four to become exhausted and one to suffer from cerebral edema. On May 21 we left Camp VII to bring the sick man down to Camp III. We had an unfortunate event. Gino Casassa, without permission and without our knowledge, climbed Changtse. This caused a series of problems with the Chinese authorities. He has been expelled from our Federation. The other members were Claudio Gálvez, Nelson Rivera, Nelson Muñoz, Eduardo Parvex, Jorge Bassa, Santiago Pavlovic and Danilo Aravena.

GASTÓN OYARZÚN, *Federación de Andinismo de Chile*

*Changtse, Illegal Ascent to Northeast Summit.* Early in the Everest expedition I suffered an attack of high-altitude sickness and returned to Base Camp. Despite a rapid recovery, our doctor recommended that I not go high again. Having disregarded this, I was ordered by the expedition leader to remain in Base Camp. However, feeling recuperated, on May 12 and 13 I reascended to Camp II at 20,000 feet. I set off alone at 3:30 A.M. on May 14 and at eight reached the base of the 3-mile-long northeast ridge at 22,300 feet. In spite of the cornices, shortly after noon I got to the base of the summit pyramid. At 3:30 I was 35 feet below the top. Waste-deep powder snow on a 70° slope separated me from the summit. As I stepped onto the snow, it slumped some 15 feet and threatened to avalanche. I found a better route 150 feet to the right on the north face and at five P.M. I reached the summit (7550 meters, 24,771 feet). [This was the route followed by the Germans who made the first ascent in 1982. See *A.A.J.*, 1983, page 294.—*Editor.*] At eleven P.M. I was back in Camp II exhausted. Because the ascent was illegal, I have been expelled from the Federación de Andinismo de Chile.

GINO CASASSA, *Chilean Section of the Club Andino Italiano*

*Everest, Attempt to Traverse the Peak by the West and Northeast Ridges.* On September 7, Frenchmen Jean Afanassieff, Bernard Prud'homme, Louis-Paul Chantelat, Eric Escoffier, Dr. Jean-Louis Etienne, Xavier Fargeas, Bruno Gallet, Serge König, American Tom Hargis and I, Swiss, left Paris. We joined co-leaders Yannick Seigneur and Patrick Barthe in Beijing. On September 15 we were at Base Camp on the Rongbuk Glacier at 17,050 feet. Camp I was placed on the Rongbuk at 18,375 feet and Camp II at the foot of the west ridge of Changtse at 19,200 feet. On cross-country skis we crossed the glacier to the base of the north spur of the shoulder of the west ridge. On the spur we placed 6500 feet of rope to avoid the risk of windslabs. We made our summit attempts from Camp II without higher camps or supplementary oxygen. Seigneur, König, Gallet and Fargeas made the first summit try from October 8 to 13 but