

said Messner at a press conference in Kathmandu on February 12, 1986. They had flown to Kathmandu from Base Camp by helicopter. The two South Tiroleans made a sad discovery, finding on the slopes of Kangchungtse (Makalu II) the bodies of the French climbers, Pierre Demolombe and Marcel Margaine, missing since November 2. Their bodies were found at 7100 and 7450 meters. According to Messner, the lower man had obviously fallen. "He had his rucksack on his back, his fingers were frostbitten and the body had some color." Makalu and Lhotse are the last two 8000ers not yet ascended by Messner.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Kangchungtse (Makalu II).* A French expedition climbed the normal route, the west face to the south ridge, with four high camps. On April 22 leader Richard Jessup, Pierre de Montgolfier and Jean-François Porret reached the summit (7678 meters, 25,190 feet).

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, Himalayan Club, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kangchungtse Ascent and Tragedy.* The autumn of 1985 was characterized by long spells of very bad weather. During the approach march we had only one sunny day. We got to Base Camp at 5400 meters on September 24. The first week there was reasonably all right, but the next ten days were terrible: hard winds, mist, snowfall. During this time we established the lower camps so that we could have an "all-or-nothing" summit push starting on October 6. With snowstorms and sometimes complete white-outs, we succeeded in reoccupying Camp III on October 10. One of the two tents there had disappeared in high winds and the other one was almost completely destroyed. After a night in this small tent, on October 11 Wim Teeuwisse, Evert Wesker, Nawang Tille Sherpa and I had enough clear weather to orient ourselves and find the right way to the summit, which we reached in a white-out. We had climbed the normal route over Makalu Col. On October 13 Frank Merjenberg and Ang Pasang had fine weather. On the same day as they reached the summit, the high camps were dismantled and the next day we left Base Camp. Merjenberg and Walter Roos decided to return via Sherpani Col and Amphu Labtsa to Lukla. After one day they were surprised by the start of three days of heavy snowfall in which 2½ meters of snow fell. There has been no trace of them found since. This accident placed our successful expedition under a dark and bitter shadow.

RONALD NAAR, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

*Kangchungtse Tragedy.* Nobody knows if this French expedition put anyone on the summit of Kangchungtse or Makalu II or not. Four climbing members made a bid for the summit on November 1 but they turned back late in the afternoon when Denis Jeanvoine and Marcel Margaine had reached the Makalu La and the other two were about 100 meters below it. They returned to Camp III at 6700 meters for the night. The next morning two descended while leader