

Cho Oyu, Scientific and Climbing Expedition. We had a medical team, Drs. Julio Alberdi, José Martínez, María Jesús Alvarado and me as leader, and climbers Juan José Amezgaray, Atxo Apellaniz, Iñaki Kerejeta, Xabier López de Gereñu, Juan Oiarzabal, Miguel Ruiz de Apodaca and Felipe Uriarte. We climbed Cho Oyu by the normal route. We reached Base Camp at 5200 meters on April 19. We established Advance Base, Camps I, II, III and IV at 5700, 5850, 6400, 7050 and 7500 meters on April 24, May 9, 11, 13 and 14. On May 15 Oiarzabal, Amezgaray, Ruiz de Apodaca and Kerejeta got to the summit, followed on May 17 by Uriarte, Apellaniz and me. We had a 280-kilogram aluminum hut for a lab. We got data from Oxylog recorders of the percent consumption of oxygen to 7050 meters. One member wore a Holter Avionics recorder to the summit. The rest of the scientific work, except for certain psychological tests, was done at Base Camp.

XABIER GARAIOA M.D., *Federación Vasca de Montaña, Spain*

Cho Oyu from Tibet. On April 1 a Tibetan expedition left Lhasa for Cho Oyu (8201 meters, 26,907 feet), the first expedition of the Tibetan Mountaineering Association to an 8000-meter peak. On April 4, they set up Base Camp on the Gyabrag Glacier* at 4959 meters. They set up Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 5400, 5700, 6300, 6900 and 7200 meters on April 14, 15, 18, 27 and 30 respectively. On the morning of May 1, before the climbers set off, it started to blow hard and to snow. But they knew that if they did not seize this good weather period, the rainy season would soon come. At 10:40 A.M., as soon as the wind and snow stopped, the assault climbers set out. After a hard struggle, at 5:50 P.M. they at long last put the five-star red flag on the summit. Nine climbers, Renqingpingchuo, Bianba, Ciren, Lawang, Danzhendunji, Gesang, (big) Duobujie, (small) Duobujie and Wangjia, reached the summit.

YING DAO-SHUI, *Chinese Mountaineering Association*

Ngojumba Kang and Cho Oyu. An expedition of twelve Poles and two Americans was led by Waclaw Otreba. The Americans were Mark Richey and Rick Wilcox. They hoped to climb the south face of Ngojumba Kang to the col just west of the summit of that peak and then follow the three-mile-long east ridge to the top of Cho Oyu. This route had defeated a British group the year before. The present expedition had been on the mountain for six weeks, had established three high camps and fixed much rope. They feared the onset of the monsoon. They decided to send the two strongest pairs to make an alpine-style attempt. Leader Otreba, another Pole and the two Americans set out and two days later were at Camp III at 7000 meters. The morning of May 15 the four moved up a low-angle glacier to establish Camp IV at the base of the south face

* The route appears to be identical to that by which Tichy made the first ascent with Pasang Dawa Lama in 1954, which is the normal route by which the mountain has usually been climbed.—*Editor.*

of Ngojumba Kang. That night they got the radio message, saying that despite the distance from the east face, the wind from a huge avalanche had swept over Camp I at 5800 meters. Karol Sopicki and Dr. Marek Roslan were seriously injured. Sirdar Pema ran what was considered to be a three-day trip to Namche in eight hours for a rescue helicopter. Others, under the still conscious doctor's instructions, made heroic efforts to keep the doctor's smashed chest clear and give him supplementary oxygen. The rescue was admirably carried out and both men have recovered. However, the Polish pair up high felt they must descend but strongly urged Richey and Wilcox to try for the peak. After a rest day, these two climbed 400 meters of 50° ice to camp at 7320 meters. A storm pinned them there for a day, but on the next they climbed in twelve hours 60° ice to the col at 7746 meters. Rick Wilcox describes the summit effort: "Another storm day kept us in the snow cave all day, but the morning of May 22 dawned beautiful with little wind. By seven A.M. we had left the cave and began the three-mile traverse to the summit of Cho Oyu. By ten o'clock we had traversed two miles of this lovely ridge. We knew from the experience of the previous English expedition that two large gendarmes blocked the route to the summit. Because going over the tops was impossible, we decided to drop down on the Tibetan side of the ridge and look for a traverse ledge system that crossed below the gendarmes. Unfortunately we were stopped by a 150-meter section which had no ledges that could be traversed. The barrier was a sheer wall of rotten rock that dropped 3000 meters to Tibet below. We were halted by only 150 meters from the easy ground leading to the summit. Sadly we retraced our steps back to our Camp VI. Since we had lost 200 meters by the gendarmes, we climbed slowly back to camp. It was still afternoon when we got to the snow cave. Because of the early hour, we decided to climb to the top of Ngojumba Kang (7946 meters, 25,972 feet). This summit was only a short distance from our camp. At three o'clock Mark and I stood on top. Later we learned that ours was the second ascent, the first going to a Korean team in 1964." Some of the Poles had set off up the standard route of Cho Oyu. On May 28 Mirosław Gardzielewski and Jacek Jezierski reached the summit after five bivouacs.

Cho Oyu. A four-man Japanese expedition led by Ken Kanazawa climbed the normal route on Cho Oyu. With this climb, the Japanese have now climbed all the 8000ers, the second nation to do so after Germany. They had three high camps. On October 3 Mitsugi Kitamura, Toichi Mitani and Norio Nakanishi reached the summit, just 12 days from the establishment of Base Camp on September 21. No artificial oxygen was used and two Sherpas went only to Camp II once.

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

Cho Oyu in Winter. Our expedition had six members: Americans Peter Athens and Craig Ballinger, Czechoslovakians Jaromír Stejskal and Dušan Bečák and Canadians Alan Burgess and me as leader. We made what is probably