

was bad and it snowed every day until October 15. Matous fell sick, while Aprin, de Pablo and I waited for 12 days before making the route in deep snow through the second icefall. On October 19 we set up Camp II at 6250 meters and on the 20th broke trail to the bergschrund at the foot of the southwest spur of Gyachungkang at 6500 meters. As we descended to rest at Base Camp, we found at Camp I the rest of the expedition, which had arrived at Base Camp on October 14. On October 26 we attacked the face: Aprin, de Pablo and I on one rope and Zabaleta and Matous on the other. The last two descended from 6700 meters. We three bivouacked at 6800 and 7100 meters but descended on October 28 after fighting all night not to be blown away by a furious wind.

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*Cho Oyu, Southwest Buttress.* A noteworthy accomplishment was a new route on Cho Oyu climbed by Polish climbers from Zakopane led by Ryszard Gajewski. Base Camp was established on April 5 at 5300 meters. They hoped to prepare the Messner variation for descent and established two camps on this route up to 6800 meters. Unfortunately they were turned back by the American expedition which informed against them in Kathmandu. They then moved to their Advance Base to 6000 meters at the foot of the nearly 2000-meters-high southwest buttress and concentrated their efforts on the new route. This ascends the prominent buttress 1.5 kilometers to the right of the Messner route. It is on ice and snow with a 150- to 200-meter-high rock face at 7000 meters, which they climbed directly with UIAA grade III. Three camps were established above Advance Base at 6600, 7100 and 7600 meters. The steeper sections were fixed with 500 meters of rope to facilitate the descent. The new route joins the old Tichy route at 7750 meters. It is not very difficult and relatively safe. In the future it may well become the "normal" route from the southwest. On April 29, starting from Camp III at 7600 meters, Gajewski and Maciej Pawlikowski climbed to the summit. On May 1 Piotr Konopka completed a solo ascent. On May 3 Marek Danielak and Andrzej Osika stood on the highest point. During the descent Danielak fell seriously ill but the rapid efforts of Dr. Lech Korniszewski saved his life. For Pawlikowski this was his second ascent of Cho Oyu, each time by a new route; he was also on the winter ascent of the southeast face.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Cho Oyu.* An international expedition was led by the Swiss Stefan Wörner. They followed close after the Poles on the new route up the southwest face of Cho Oyu. The expedition had originally been given a permit to attempt Cho Oyu via its east ridge from the south face of Ngojumba Kang, but their attempt was stopped at 6400 meters in a very dangerous chaos of séracs and crevasses. Wörner states that the east-ridge approach to Cho Oyu appears as difficult as a traverse from Lhotse Shar to Lhotse's main summit. [This route was attempted by British in 1984 and Poles and Americans in 1985. Americans Mark Richey and Rick Wilcox got to about 7950 meters.—*Editor.*] They then turned to the

southwest face. Seven members reached the summit, a route which is more direct, shorter and safer than the Tichy route. On May 3 Austrian Peter Habeler and the late Swiss Marcel Rüedi left a bivouac at 6000 meters and climbed to another bivouac at 7600 meters. After being held stormbound there for a day, they reached the summit on May 5. On May 9 American Jan Smith and German Rüdiger Schlegel got to the top, followed by three soloists: German Jörg Daum on May 10, Deputy leader Yugoslav Bogdan Brakas on May 11 and Austrian Manfred Lorenz on May 16. None used oxygen and all climbed semi-alpine-style.

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

*Cho Oyu.* Cowboys on Cho Oyu consisted of Americans Michael Bacon, Alan Jennings, Charlie Schertz, Ed Yoshida and me as leader, Michael Clarke, who is an Englishman who has acquired American citizenship, British David Hambly and Canadian David McClung. We flew to Lukla on March 21, but our baggage came overland through Jiri. We spent ten days acclimatizing in the Khumbu while waiting for our baggage to arrive. We took the standard approach to Base Camp through Thame, Marlung and Lunak. The weather was poor with heavy snows. One yak died in the deep drifts; we compensated the owner. On April 7 we established Base Camp at 5200 meters at Kangchung, wrongly marked on the Schneider map as Dzasampa; Dzasampa is located further up the Nangpa Glacier at the base of the icefall. During the next ten days, we used a dozen porters to help transport baggage to the site of Camp I with temporary camps at Dzasampa and at a place above the icefall. On April 17 we all occupied Camp I on the moraine of the Gyabrag Glacier at 5920 meters. This camp served as Advance Base. On April 20 Schertz and I occupied Camp II at 6350 meters on the northwest ridge. On April 23 Hambly and Bacon occupied Camp III at 6720 meters on the ridge at the base of the icefall. We all returned to Base Camp for our only rest period. On May 7 a four-man party tried to establish Camp IV at 7500 meters. High winds and intense cold turned us back a few yards above Camp III. On May 10 we again attempted to establish our high camp and make a summit attempt. Using lines we had previously fixed in the icefall, which had ice up to 80°, we broke new ground and reached the base of the first rock band on the western face of Cho Oyu. Bacon and Schertz dropped their loads and Hambly and I established Camp IV 100 meters higher at 7500 meters. The next morning we left at 6:30 and started through the first rock band. We bore to the right, joined the west ridge at 7800 meters and progressed up the ridge, a series of moderate ice pitches, to the flat snow area below the second rock band. We took a direct line through this, exiting on the right side into the broad, long summit area. We reached the summit at 2:30 P.M. on May 11. During the half-hour we stayed on the summit, we took photos and displayed the flags of Nepal, the United States and Great Britain. The thermometer read  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the wind was estimated at 30 kph with gusts up to 60 kph. At the summit was a metal flag pole with a metal Chinese flag attached. The true summit should not