

*Himalchuli Winter Attempt and Tragedy.* A Polish expedition led by Józef Stepien hoped to climb the main peak of Himalchuli by its southwest ridge. Although there were seven members, only two were really high climbers. Deputy leader Wiesław Panejko and Jacek Klineciewicz got to 6200 meters on December 29. The next day Klineciewicz unaccountably lost his footing and plunged some 1000 meters to his death. The expedition was given up.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Bhrikuti Attempt.* An expedition of nine French, a Nepali, a Sherpa and a Tamang were climbing on the Japanese route of the spring of 1982, the west ridge. On April 30, Jean-Yves Ferrand, Pierre Gaillot and Bruno Kriner got to 6250 meters but Ferrand fell into a crevasse. Too much time was consumed getting the injured man out for the other two to continue the one-hour climb to the summit that day. Their tight schedule required them to leave the mountain immediately.

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

*Tilitso Tragedy.* A 16-member German expedition led by Hans Huhn had hoped to climb Tilitso. During the approach to Base Camp, a huge snow avalanche on the west side of the Mesokanta La caught ten climbers. Rudolf Springmann and Hermann Ebert were killed. The survivors decided not to continue on to Base Camp and the expedition was abandoned.

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*Annapurna, South Face Attempt.* [The Bulgarian expedition failed to climb Annapurna's south face by the Polish route in the winter, as described briefly in *A.A.J.*, 1986 on p. 293.] Their ambitious plan for climbing both Annapurna and Dhaulagiri in the spring soon fell through. Frequent heavy snowfall meant lengthy periods of unfavorable climbing conditions. The team, now reduced to nine Bulgarians including their Base Camp-bound leader, Boian Atanasov, and three Sherpas reoccupied Base Camp at 4300 meters only on March 25. Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 5400, 6100, 6500 and 6850 meters on April 5, 17, 19 and 23. New ropes were fixed. Their high point was 7550 meters, to which deputy leader Ivan Valtchev and Vesseldev Tschaushev climbed on May 9. During that day's ascent, Valtchev counted ten places where the ropes had been seriously damaged by falling stones. He therefore called off the entire effort.

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*Annapurna Attempt.* A five-man Italian expedition led by Giacomo Stefani had hoped to climb a new route on Annapurna, the northwest buttress and north face. Early on they decided against the route because it was all exposed rock rather than snow-covered for which they were equipped. They followed the