

blocks in the upper section of the face, especially steep ice couloirs on the north side of the face close to the ridge that connects Pucaranra and Palcaraju. We spent several hours on the afternoon of July 13 searching for the best route across the glacier. The next morning we left with rather heavy packs. The first section lay up an obvious avalanche chute that had us puffing to get to the safety of the bergschrund. Once above that obstacle, the face got significantly steeper. We came to the rock bands and had little difficulty with them. In the main couloir above, the angle steepened to 70° in places and the ice got harder. By midday the ice had begun to run water and ice screws were little more than a psychological protection. Finally at three P.M. we sighted a convenient cave at the top of the couloir and settled down for a long, cold night. On July 15 we continued to the top with a few exciting moments, such as dodging falling ice and crossing precarious snow bridges. We descended to the cave for a second bivouac and returned to Base Camp the following day. This line seems to be the same one that Spaniards were unable to complete in 1980 and may have been subsequently climbed by Poles in 1985.

ROGER GOCKING

*Palcaraju and Santa Cruz.* Between June 21 and July 21, fourteen Slovene climbers were active in the Cordillera Blanca. Aside from ascents on Artesonraju, Alpamayo and Huascarán, they made three new routes. On June 30, Emil Tratnik made the first traverse from Palcaraju to Palcaraju Sur, which was generally 50° to 60° with stretches of 80°. That same day Peter Poljanec and Žarko Trušnovec ascended the west ridge of Palcaraju, which was extremely difficult with very steep ice. The most important new route was on the south face of Santa Cruz, which Andrej Lužnik, Tratnik, Poljanec and Trušnovec ascended on July 7 and 8 in 18 hours of climbing. (See below.) This was Trušnovec's twelfth new route in the cordilleras of Peru.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Santa Cruz South Face.* On June 7 and 8, Emil Tratnik, Andrej Lužnik, Peter Poljanec and I climbed the 1200-meter-high south face of Santa Cruz. We had very bad snow conditions and had to bivouac when we gained the west ridge. In the last part there was a 150-meter section which was the most difficult part of the climb: a rock-and-ice barrier with rock of UIAA VI difficulty and ice of 90°. We descended the north face to the Los Cedros valley; it took us two days to return to the Cashapampa valley.

ŽARKO TRUŠNOVEC, *Idrija, Yugoslavia*

*Torre de Parón.* Four Spaniards from Madrid made an impressive new route on the 900-meter-high east buttress of the Torre de Parón, taking eight days and climbing UIAA difficulty of VI+, A3. The crux pitches were on the