

till October 20 and dumped a meter and a half of snow at Base Camp. On October 27, Camp I was set up at 5950 meters. We had fixed 200 meters of rope on the rock below the camp. The weather was beautiful, but the wind and deep snow caused difficulties and it was not until November 2 that we placed Camp II at 6500 meters. Camp III was established at 6950 meters on November 7. Progress was slowed by huge crevasses below the final face. On November 10, Kovačević and Puzak climbed the face both in deep snow and on hard ice, which was of 50° to 65°. They set up Camp IV at 7200 meters. On the 11th, they reached the summit of Ngojumba II (7743 meters, 25,403 feet). From the same camp on November 13, Butković and Alikalfić got to the top while Ognančević gave up at 7500 meters. (The Croatian climbers thought they had made the first ascent. They did make a new route and the second ascent. The first ascent was made by Japanese in the pre-monsoon period of 1965, when they first thought they had climbed Ngojumba Kang I. They later acknowledged they had gone to the slightly lower summit, Ngojumba Kang II.—*Editor.*)

DARKO BERLJAK, *Planinarski Savez Zagreba, Yugoslavia*

*Cho Oyu Attempt.* Matt Baker, Ney Grant, Ron Reno, Kirk Swanson, Dr. Rich Gerhauser and I as leader, accompanied by Base Camp helpers Sue Baker, John Bell and Mona Livingston, attempted the so-called traditional "southwest" ridge route from Nepal, which is in actual fact the northwest ridge. Only one high-altitude Sherpa was employed above Base Camp. We established Base Camp at Kangchung (5200 meters) on April 12. Advance Base at 5950 meters was occupied on April 22, close by the Chilean camp. A commercial expedition from Europe with over 20 members, which had approached from the Tibetan side, was also there. Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 6400, 6800, 7200 and 7600 meters on April 25, 27, 29 and 30. At Camp IV, Swanson and Grant were joined by two Chileans; another Chilean pair had reached the summit a couple of days earlier. Bad weather stopped a summit attempt on May 1 and continued bad weather forced a descent to Camp II on May 2 and to Base Camp on May 4. No subsequent summit attempt was made since most of our supplies had been removed from Advance Base on the Tibetan side by unknown persons. On April 25, having carried to Camp I, I was confronted by Chinese army and police officials, who confiscated the Nepalese climbing permit and my passport and prevented me from climbing higher. I descended to Base Camp to report on the political border difficulties now developing over the route. Apparently a border re-alignment moved the border south to the Nangpa La and the natural drainage divide between the two countries. This puts the original ascent route and the Messner variation in Tibet. Future climbing parties attempting the mountain from Nepal via the Thame valley and the Nangpa Glacier may experience similar difficulties. It is also possible that a Chinese customs post is being constructed at or near Dzapama and the border may be patrolled during the climbing season. Possibly

an agreement could be reached with climbing authorities in Beijing, permitting an expedition to approach the mountain from Nepal and to cross over into Tibet for the actual ascent on the upper reaches of the mountain.

ROBERT WATTERS, *Unaffiliated*

*Cho Oyu.* Alejandro Izquierdo, Italo Valle, Rodrigo Mújica and I established Base Camp at 5200 meters on April 3 and Camp I at 5600 meters. In order to reach Camp II at 5850 meters on the normal (Tichy) route on Cho Oyu, we had to cross either the Nangpa La or the Senta-ghu pass; we did it both ways. Camps III and IV were at 6600 and 7200 meters. On April 28 we set up two tents at Camp V at 7600 meters. After six hours on April 29, Valle, Ang Rita, Ang Phuri and I reached the summit. Swiss Fredy Graf and Josef Wangeler arrived just five minutes after us. (See Cho Oyu from Tibet.—*Editor.*) This was one of the only three sunny days we had on the expedition. Izquierdo and Mújica got to Camp V in a second summit try but could not continue because of bad weather. Ang Rita has one of the best records of the Sherpas. He has now climbed to the summits of ten 8000ers: Dhaulagiri (4), Everest (3), Cho Oyu (2), Kangchenjunga (1).

MAURICIO PURTO, *Chilean Section of the Club Alpino Italiano*

*Cho Oyu, Illegal Ascent.* Two Polish climbers, Tadeusz Karolczak and Aleksander Lwow, made an unauthorized climb of Cho Oyu, reaching the summit on September 30. They climbed the northwest face after crossing into Tibet from Nepal.

*Swiss Cho Oyu Attempt.* Leader Norbert Joos, Peter Alig and Louis Deuber were defeated by dangerous snow conditions on this attempt on Cho Oyu's southeast face. They reached 7600 meters on September 20 but were forced to retreat. They had had four bivouacs in their alpine-style attempt. On October 1, they got only to 7100 meters. Waist-deep powder snow and fierce winds meant great avalanche danger.

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

*German Cho Oyu Attempt.* This four-man expedition dwindled to just one member before arrival at Base Camp; two went to Lhotse first and never went on to Cho Oyu and the third got sick before getting to Base Camp and left Nepal. That left Hans Eitel to climb alone, which he did. There were constant avalanches on his intended southeast-face route and so he changed his plans and tried the south ridge, the eastern one of the two lines attempted by Mark Udall's team. Eitel got to 7400 meters on October 23 before giving up. The route was too difficult and long for him alone.

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