

Glacier tongue and the Biafo. Powell, Hubbard and I took 23 hours on August 11 to climb the north face and descend over a subsidiary peak to the northwest. The descent involved a 1500-foot detour down the south face to avoid dreadful snow conditions on the corniced northwest ridge.

STRUAN M. GRAY, *Cambridge University*

Kunyang Chhish Tragedy. A Japanese expedition led by Seichi Wada tried unsuccessfully to climb Kunyang Chhish. On July 19 Takumi Onuma fell and was killed after his rope was cut by a falling block of ice. Further details are not available.

Rakaposhi Attempt. Twelve climbers from Črna in northern Slovenia attempted to make the second ascent of Rakaposhi's north ridge, which was first climbed by Japanese in 1979. We established Base Camp, Camp I and Camp II at 3600, 4300 and 5350 meters on June 23, 27 and 28. On July 4, we reached a high point of 5700 meters. We just could not establish Camp III because of deep snow. The members were Zdenko Žagar, Karlo Ritonja, Milan Savelli, Milan Plesec, Tomo Jeseničnik Jure Mavrič, Ivan Štornik, Alojz Keup, Zdenko Razbornik, Miro Jelen, Dr. Janez Gorjanc and I as leader.

IGOR RADOVIČ, *Planinsko Društvo Črna, Yugoslavia*

Rakaposhi Attempt. A Japanese expedition from Meiji University was composed of Munehiko Yamamoto, leader, Atsushi Yamamoto and Hiroshi Ohishi. They attempted the east ridge, also tried by Edi Koblmüller in 1985, who got only to the east peak. After establishing four camps and fixing ropes, they got to the east peak on July 3, but gave up because of the difficulties above.

Rakaposhi Attempt. We had hoped to make the first ascent of the east ridge of Rakaposhi. In 1985, Austrians led by Edi Koblmüller climbed to the east summit (7010 meters, 23,000 feet) via the north spur. Before we arrived, Japanese attempted the climb in siege-style with four camps and fixed ropes to 6700 meters. On July 3, the Japanese got to the east summit and turned back despite excellent weather. They told us that traversing the ridge to the summit of the east ridge (c. 7300 meters) seemed too difficult. Our expedition was composed of Arnfried Braun, Ulrich Calmbach, Hans Jakobi, Felix Haas and me as leader. On July 1, we got to Base Camp at 3470 meters, two days distant from Pisan on the Karakoram Highway. We acclimatized for ten days and on July 11, the weather turned bad for a week. We started an alpine-style attempt on July 17, but got only to 5100 meters before being driven back down by the weather. We made a second try starting on July 22. The next day we got to 5700 meters, but the route from 5100 meters on was very dangerous from

P 5979 on the Biafo-Solu Divide.
Main Peak is on the right. The
Central Icefield was reached by a
hidden glacial ramp.



falling ice and threatening avalanches. We pulled back to Base Camp on the 24th. After more bad weather, we left Base Camp on July 29.

HUBERT BLEICHER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Traverse from Dassu to Pasu and P 5979. In July, Phil Bartlett, Duncan Tunstall and I spent four weeks walking from Dassu to Pasu, a journey of over 200 kilometers. We used porters to Base Camp at the head of the Biafo Glacier. A break in generally bad weather allowed Tunstall and me to climb a fine route to the south summit of P 5957, a granite tower on the Biafo-Solu divide, just south of the Hispar Pass. After ten days in the area, we continued toward Shimshal, taking eleven days to cross Snow Lake, the Khurdopin Pass (c. 5750 meters), the Khurdopin Glacier and Shimshal village to Pasu. I returned in August to Snow Lake with Steve Razetti, approaching via the Hispar Glacier. I climbed another route on P 5957, this time taking the northeast face to the main summit (19,617 feet), probably for the first ascent. We walked out to Skardu via the Sokha La, Sokha Glacier and Bashar valley.

STEPHEN VENABLES, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Batura Attempt. Our expedition set out from Hasanabad for Batura on July 2. We walked for three days through an inhospitable land to 3800 meters, where the porters refused to go on, frightened by the glacier crossing. We had to ferry our loads from there to Base Camp at 4100 meters. After the establishment of Base Camp, the weather turned bad and the mountain became so loaded with new snow that it would have taken days for it to be safe. We gave up on the route, which had been climbed by Edi Koblmüller's expedition some years ago, having got no higher than 5000 meters. We warn others that the porters do not stick by the "Rules and Regulations" and demand much higher wages. The liaison officer also demanded much more than was stipulated.

THEODOR KUBICKA, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

P 5735 and P 6090, Batura Glacier Area. My wife Sue and I enjoyed two weeks in the Batura Glacier area. We left Pasu on August 12 with two porters who carried to Guichisam in three days and then on to the Yoksugoz Glacier, where we pitched Base Camp at 4000 meters on the 16th. The porters left us there. After exploration of the southwest branch of the Yoksugoz, on August 20 we climbed P 5735, prominently seen from Guichisam and the culminating point of a long ridge that runs east from Kuksar. We joined the narrow attractive southeast ridge by climbing southwestwards up a flowery hillside three kilometers up the Yoksugoz. We carried big loads back down the Batura for two days but early on the 24th, just beyond Yashpirt, we made an unpremeditated decision to climb P 6090, the first prominent peak on the south