

protocol to enrich themselves. At their insistence, renegotiations occurred daily and consumed hours. We arrived at Base Camp to find a disgruntled Himalayan Association of Japan team, led by Hideyuki Uematsu, which had a permit for Syn Qing Feng I (6860 meters, 22,507 feet). They had given up many days short of their prime objective, but in three days did climb Syn Qing Feng XVIII (6237 meters, 20,463 feet), a walk-up near camp. Our liaison officer/cook, Mr. Li, climbed this solo on a windless morning to retrieve Japanese fixed rope for himself. Though the Japanese were eager to get home, the Chinese forced them to stay for several extra days, extracting from them exorbitant day-rates for trucks and food. In the next ten days, we established Camp II at 18,000 feet on the glacier and Camp III at 19,800 feet at the foot of the summit peak of Syn Qing Feng II, for which we had the permit. The Chinese made little effort to protect the camp from external thieves but grilled members every day to make sure we did not intend to climb Syn Qing Feng I without paying the proper fee. From Base Camp to the higher camps, the bitter cold and high winds were relentless. We made two attempts on the summit ridge, both repulsed by high winds; one at 20,200 and the other at 21,000 feet. Eventually we ran out of time and retreated.

ERIC S. PERLMAN

*Syn Qing Feng XVIII.* A Japanese expedition led by Hideyuki Uematsu attempted unsuccessfully to climb Sin Qing Feng I. They turned to Syn Qing Feng XVIII (6237 meters, 20,463 feet), which they climbed by its south ridge. On August 18, Tadashi Fukuyama, Makoto Miura, Yoshihiro Kodama, Takashi Masuda and Hajime Minejishi reached the top.

*Qi Lian, Gansu, Qinghai.* Our expedition was composed of Tsukasa Ogai, Kazuo Ishihara, Sakutaro Kono, Yu Sato, Michio Takahashi, Tomohiro Kameoka, Nobuhiko Muto, Koichi Kinoshita, Masao Takahashi, Shinji Yasuda, Nobuo Momai, Masakatsu Horie, Nobuyoshi Honda and me as leader. We had hoped to attempt the south face but could not reach that side because of floods. Base Camp at 4030 meters was made on August 7 and Camp I on the glacier at 4550 meters on August 9. Camp II at 5250 meters on the north ridge was set up on the 12th. On August 13 Masao Takahashi, Momai, Horie and Honda reached the summit (5547 meters, 18,200 feet) at 2:09 P.M.

TAKASHI KATO, *Fukushima High School Old Boys Alpine Club, Japan*

*Mustagh Ata.* This big peak (7546 meters, 24,758 feet) is so frequently climbed by large private and commercial groups that we cannot report on all such expeditions. In 1988 there were groups from Sweden, Italy and France, possibly more. On July 20, American Keith Brown reached the summit solo.

*Kongur Tiubie Attempt.* Our twelve-person team followed the southwest route on our attempt on Kongur Tiubie, second highest mountain in the Pamirs.