

west face of Kangchungtse. It has a central snowfield, a rim of summit cliffs and granite slabs seamed with ice gullies in the lower half. The left side of the face has big black and red cliffs from which stonefall emanated. The right flank was guarded by a large sérac. Sustad and I left our tent at 6500 meters during the night of September 25 to 26 and followed a line through difficult mixed ground with particularly steep sections at 7000 and 7500 meters. The weather deteriorated. At 9:30 P.M. on the 26th, we reached the summit ridge at P 7600, 40 meters below and 300 meters from the summit of Kangchungtse. We descended without going to the summit. It cannot be said that we lost our way coming down; we never knew it. The map showed Makalu La as being south, but it did not show the cliff bands we nearly fell over. The descent was through 7400-meter Makalu La and thence via the normal Makalu route back to our tent, which we reached on the evening of September 27.

VICTOR SAUNDERS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Makalu Attempt.* George Austiguy, Dick Jackson, Brad Johnson, Scott Thorburn, Dave Wright and I had hoped to climb the Japanese Ridge on the northwest face of Makalu. We established Base Camp on September 17 at 5400 meters and set a staging camp at 5800 meters where the real climbing would begin. On September 28, a major snowstorm forced a retreat to Base Camp. On October 2, we broke trail back up to our staging camp only to find the avalanche danger on the Japanese Ridge to be extreme. We decided to switch to the safer normal route. Climbing alpine-style, we reached 7000 meters on October 4 but returned to Base Camp to rest for a summit attempt. Jackson and I returned to 7000 meters on October 9 for a first summit try, but heavy wind and snow forced us to descend the following day. Austiguy and Thorburn reached Makalu Col (7400 meters) on October 13 but descended because of high winds. On the 15th, Jackson, Johnson and I climbed to 7000 meters. Johnson continued on to 7600 meters and the following morning soloed to 8100 meters, but turned around because of dangerous windslab avalanche conditions. We abandoned the climb on October 25.

JOE FRANK, *Unaffiliated*

*Makalu Post-Monsoon Attempts.* Aside from the international expedition led by Michael Woolridge and the American one led by Joe Frank, there were three unsuccessful ones on the northwest side of Makalu in the post-monsoon period. Swiss Bruno Zaugg led a group of three Austrians and a German which got to 8000 meters on September 27. Spaniard Señora Ana Sese was the leader of five Spaniards who reached 8000 meters on the 28th. On October 15, seven Spaniards under the leadership of Pere Giro got to a high point of 8100 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Baruntse Attempts.* There was an unsuccessful British attempt on the south-east ridge of Baruntse led by Andrew Wigley. They reached 6860 meters on May