

threat of falling séracs sweeping the upper part of the face. Twice we were nearly overwhelmed. The snow and ice conditions were very good. The wind was strong and it was cold, but the sérac danger was too great. There is a very grave matter to report. There was a Korean expedition with which we never succeeded in communicating which despite a permission only for the southwest ridge came to the southeast face. When we removed our fixed ropes, they attacked us with extreme violence. The liaison officers were four days' march below us. Except for the intervention of the Koreans' Sherpas, we would not have escaped with our lives, as attested to by our open wounds.

ALAIN HUBERT, *Club Alpin Belge*

*Cho Oyu Attempt, Tragedy and Assault.* An expedition of seven Koreans apparently had permission for the southwest ridge of Cho Oyu but turned instead to the southeast face. They reached 7800 meters before abandoning their effort. Ang Lhakpa (also known as Lhakpa Nuru) had scaled Everest twice as well as two other 8000ers. He fell and was killed on this expedition. Tragically, he was one of five Sherpas who died as they accompanied climbers on winter expeditions this year. The Sherpa climber's death rate was three times that of the foreigners who perished this winter. Since the Koreans were on the same route as the Belgians, there happened what possibly was bound to happen sooner or later when more than one team is on the same route on the same mountain at the same time. They came to blows. Alain Hubert and Régis Maincent were attacked with fists and sticks, according to them, by three of the Korean party and six Sherpas. The Korean leader Lee Ho-Sang denies that any Koreans took part in the fracas, but he does agree that in the hour-long fight Maincent received a head wound that bled badly and that a rope was tied around Maincent's neck and his arms were pinned behind his back. The Europeans fled into the night, hobbling away with the aid of their ski poles.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Dorje Lhakpa Attempt.* Our expedition consisted of M. Paolucci, D. Morandotti, F. Cella, L. Zarpellon, L. Lehner, Dr. M. Dell'Oca and me as leader. We approached from the south. We hoped to climb the ridge system used by the Germans for their descent in 1986. On October 5, we set up Base Camp at 4300 meters near the moraine of the glacier that comes down the south face of Dorje Lhakpa. We placed Camp I at 5300 meters on the lower part of the west ridge on October 8. On the 10th and 11th, Zarpellon, Morandotti, Cella and a Sherpa tried to climb to the site of Camp II but because of avalanche danger they gave up at 5650 meters.

EZIO GOGGI, *Amici del Contrin, Italy*

*Langsisa Ri.* Koreans Oh In-Hwan and Park Young-Seok and Nima Tamang composed this small expedition. They approached via the Langtang Khola and

set up Base Camp at 4300 meters on April 12. They put Advance Base at 4700 meters on the 13th and Camp I the next day at 5450 meters on the west face of the mountain's southwest peak. On April 16, Park and Nima Tamang stood atop the southwest peak (6154 meters, 20,190 feet), having thought they were headed for the highest summit. On April 18, the same pair were back in Camp I and the next day pitched Camp II at 5800 meters on the south face of the main peak (6327, 21,086 feet). On April 20, the two left at 3:30, were on top at 11:30 A.M and back in Base Camp at 11:30 P.M.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Langsisa Ri in Winter.* A Korean expedition led by Lee Dong-Myung made the sixth ascent of Langsisa Ri, climbing its south face. On December 14, Kim Bo-Youl and Dawa Tshering Sherpa reached the summit.

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*Langtang Ri Winter Ascent.* An expedition of three Koreans made the sixth ascent of Langtang Ri (7205 meters, 23,638 feet). On December 9, leader Park Young-Seok, Youn Tae-Young and Nepali Bir Bahadur Tamang reached the summit via the southwest ridge.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Langtang Lirung Tragedy.* An eight-member Japanese expedition from Hosei University in Tokyo attempting Langtang Lirung via the southeast ridge ended in tragedy. On March 29, four climbers ascending to Camp I at 5600 meters were struck by a huge avalanche at 4900 meters and carried down 600 meters. Noruo Matsumoto was miraculously able to free himself from the debris and was not even injured. The three others were killed. The survivors and two Sherpas searched for them, finding the bodies of Noriyuki Futami and Yasuhisa Kuwashina. The body of Masahiro Hisamoto could not be found.

*Langtang Lirung, Swiss-West German and British-Irish Ascents.* There were two successful expeditions on Langtang Lirung (7234 meters, 23,734 feet), both by the southeast ridge. On November 10, Swiss Markus Baumann, Frau Dorothee Landolt, Martin Lochstampfer and Fritz Mauer reached the summit, followed the next day by the Swiss leader Hans Berger, German Fräulein Barbara Leitz and Swiss Liselotte Schmidt. On November 12, Irishman Declan MacMahon got to the top, completing the 12th ascent of the peak. He was a member of the expedition led by Briton Andrew Creigh.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Ganesh IV (Pabil) Attempt.* Our expedition to Ganesh IV or Pabil (7052 meters, 23,136 feet) was composed of Dr. Pedro Rossi, Miguel A. Vidal, José