

They found the Gasherbrum Glacier very broken up and many ice towers on the Nakpo. They looked at possible routes on Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II and Broad Peak. A second group of 12 from Miyagi Prefecture Alpine Club was led by Hiroshi Yajima. They actually tried to get high on the mountain and reached 6100 meters on the east ridge but gave up on July 9. Yajima was nearly killed in an avalanche and they had several minor accidents.

## USSR

*Khan Tengri and Pik Pobedy.* The 3000-meter-high snow-and-ice north face of Khan Tengri is the highest and most severe wall in the Tien Shan. There are seven routes on the face, but all had been climbed by Soviets in teams of at least six using much material and fixed ropes. Josef Nežerka and I were the first to climb this gigantic wall alpine-style. We were on the climb from July 20 to 27, reaching the summit (6995 meters, 22,950 feet) on July 26 (UIAA V, 80°). We had planned to take four days for the ascent but already on the second day the weather turned unfavorable, which slackened our pace considerably. In the lower part we followed the route of the Studentin team and in the upper part that of the Myslovski team. We descended the west ridge to the 5900-meter pass and then to the south to the International Mountaineering Camp on the South Inylcheck Glacier. Seven days after our descent to the camp, Nežerka, Miloslav Neuman and I climbed Pik Pobedy (7439 meters, 24,407 feet) over the Diki Pass and Pik Vazha Pshavel. Thus Neuman became the first Czechoslovak and the third non-Soviet climber to become a Snow Leopard. (The other two are Americans.) This title is given to mountaineers who have successfully climbed all the four peaks over 7000 meters in the Soviet Union.

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*Pamir Camps, 1988.* The Soviet international Pamir camps continue to be popular, providing challenging high-altitude climbing at relatively moderate cost. During the 1988 season, 412 foreign mountaineers from 17 countries in Europe, Asia and America, including Messner, came together in the camps. Pik Lenina (7134 meters, 23,406 feet) was climbed by 119 foreigners, Pik Korzhenevskoy (7105 meters, 23,310 feet) by 65 and the highest in the Soviet Union, Pik Lenina (7483, 24,550 feet), by 55. Some teams used difficult routes; ski and paraglider descents were completed. Unfortunately there was quite a bit of illness, mostly high-altitude sickness. The local rescue teams intervened in 45 cases. There were also deaths. For instance, Czechoslovak Dr. Peter Čánek was killed on the descent from Pik Chetiriokh. Pik Lenina, climbed by thousands, remains the world's most popular 7000er. Pik Kommunizma has been climbed by some 2000 mountaineers on more than 20 routes. A new high-standard route with a 8500-foot rise was made in August 1988 via its south face by a Soviet team led by V. Bashkarov.

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