

ascent of Ama Dablam illegally, not having been given permission. He claimed it was a solo ascent, but there were Americans on the route at the same time as he, and they reported that he would have died if he had not been able to sleep in their tent at Camp III between two of them. By his own admission, he had taken absolutely no gear with him and had no camp beyond a Sherpa village. Americans led by John Reed and Chris Noble did indeed make the ascent on December 4 when Noble and Conrad Ankers got to the top. Italians Marco Della Longa, Livio Ferraris and Giovanni Ghisleni on December 22 and leader Fabrizio Rodolfi and Battista Galbiati on December 23 completed the ascent.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Imjatse, Southwest Face, 1989.* Italian Carlo Stratta and Dawa Lama climbed a new route on the southwest face of Imjatse (Island Peak). They climbed the 4000-foot route in seven hours to reach the southwestern summit. They continued the traverse to the highest (northeastern) summit. It appears that this route lies to the right of the southwest ridge on the steep ice face.

*Lhotse Shar.* A Spanish Catalan expedition was led by Señorita Mercè Macià and composed of Manu Badiola, Antoni Ricart, Carles Valles, Víctor Marín, Pere Torres, Miquel Sala, Manuel Punsola and Josep Lluís Sasot. They established five camps on the south and southeast ridges. On October 8, Valles and Badiola reached the summit, completing the eighth ascent of Lhotse Shar (8400 meters, 27,559 feet).

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Lhotse South Face.* Tomo Česen's full article on this remarkable solo new route appears on page 1 of this volume.

*Lhotse, South Face Direttissima.* A 20-member Soviet team led by Aleksander Shevchenko took a different line to the right of Tomo Česen's on the rocky central part of the face. Despite poor weather and avalanches, they worked their way up the route. Six camps were established at 6000, 6600, 7000, 7400, 8000 and 8400 meters. The crux was from Camp IV on up to the top. Rock of UIAA V and VI was covered with ice and a thin cover of snow. The ridges were dangerously corniced. On October 16, Sergei Bershov and Vladimir Karatayev left Camp VI at seven A.M. In twelve hours, they climbed the extremely difficult ridges and arrived on the summit at seven P.M., already in the dark. It took them until five A.M. to descend to Camp VI. They had spent six days above 8000 meters and were totally exhausted. Three of their companions had to climb up and join them for the descent since they were incapable of descending by themselves. It was a fantastic rescue. It took them five days to descend even with