

April 22. A Brazilian, Sergio Beck, got to the summit in an unauthorized climb that same day. Four Americans, led by David Houchin, failed in their attempt, reaching 6100 meters on April 8.

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*Cho Oyu, East Ridge Ascent and Tragedy.* A team of 14 Russians, a Ukrainian and a Bashkir was led by Sergei Yefimov. They succeeded in climbing Cho Oyu (8201 meters, 26,906 feet) by the formidable east ridge, which has a 70-meter-deep gap with 80° rock on its sides at a very high altitude. They overcame this great obstacle partly by making an extremely difficult traverse on a rock ledge on the Tibetan side. This ridge had previously been unsuccessfully attempted by Japanese, British, Polish, American and Japanese climbers. Their highest fixed camp was at 6950 meters. At eight A.M. on October 20, six members set out from a bivouac at 7900 meters on the western side of this obstacle. Climbing without artificial oxygen, Ivan Plotnikov, Eugeny Vinogradsky and Aleksander Yakovenko gained the summit three hours later. Two more, Valeri Pershin and Sergei Bogomolov reached the top nearly two hours after that. Yuri Grebeniuk turned back at 8000 meters because his fingers were beginning to freeze and as a surgeon he wanted to keep them from being damaged. Tragically, the next day during the party's descent from the bivouac, Grebeniuk was hit on the forehead by a falling stone while he was climbing out of the gap. Like the summiters, he was not wearing a helmet. He received a deep wound and lived only a minute longer. His body had to be left in a sleeping bag on a shelf in the gully.

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*Cho Oyu, West Side from the South, Ascents and Attempt, Post-Monsoon.* On September 29, Russians Vyatcheslav Skripko, leader, Mikhail Mozhayev and Yevgeny Prilepa reached the summit of Cho Oyu, having climbed in one day from 7200 meters. On October 1, the two Bulgarian members of the same expedition, Borislav Dimitrov and Miss Iordanka Dimitrova also got to the top. Miss Dimitrova is the first Bulgarian woman to have climbed an 8000er. She has climbed all 7000ers in what was the USSR, becoming the first foreign female "Snow Leopard." A French expedition was also successful from Nepal on the western side of the peak: Max Imbert and Dawa Sherpa on October 4 and leader Michel Zalio and Kilu Temba Sherpa on October 5. These were the 95th to 98th ascents of the mountain. Three Austrians led by Rudi Mayr were unsuccessful, reaching 6500 meters on October 28 and November 4.

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*Numbur.* Helmut Müller and I traveled to Jiri by bus and then made a seven-day approach via Junbesi, Basa Drangka, over a 4352-meter pass to the