

of ice, where you had to get by one *penitente* to see your way past the next. It took us five days to get a route up the 25 kilometers. Once marked, it took seven or eight hours. We could not see the east face of Broad Peak until we were at Advance Base, which was on a moraine at 4500 meters. From there, we ascended two or three hours towards Gasherbrum IV over hidden crevasses. This placed us in a cirque below Broad Peak. We spent four days observing the peak to plan routes and to scan possible avalanche tracks. We then decided to attack a spur on the right side that led over a 6400-meter foresummit, beyond which we placed Camp II. The climbing on the spur was difficult. We placed our Camp I at 5400 meters. We then traversed left and climbed ice up to 55° to a nearly vertical, 10-meter-high sérac. We traversed below the top of the forepeak on ice up to 80° and another traverse to Camp II at 6400 meters. A rather easy ridge section led to a last sérac barrier where we set up two small tents as Camp III. We climbed up the séracs to about 7000 meters on ice that varied from 60° to 80°. The route to the summit seemed clear. The temperatures were frigid and another storm kept us tent-bound from September 22 to October 10. We gave up the attempt. Diemberger did a considerable amount of reconnaissance in the region. He investigated the approaches to Windy Gap (Skyang La), ascending the Southeast Skyang Glacier, and the Urdok Glacier.

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Xuebao Ding, Sichuan. The first ascent of Xuebao Ding (5588 meters, 18,334 feet) was made by an expedition of the Himalayan Association of Japan led by Kunimitsu Sakai. After reaching Base Camp on August 5, they climbed the south ridge. On August 12, Hitoshi Kubo, Yasuji Moriyama, Hideo Tobe, Hidekatsu Kashiwakura and Mrs. Hiroko Hirakawa reached the summit. They were followed the next day by the leader, Mitsunori Naka and Yasuke Gouda. A Himalayan Association of Japan expedition in 1986 did not reach the top.

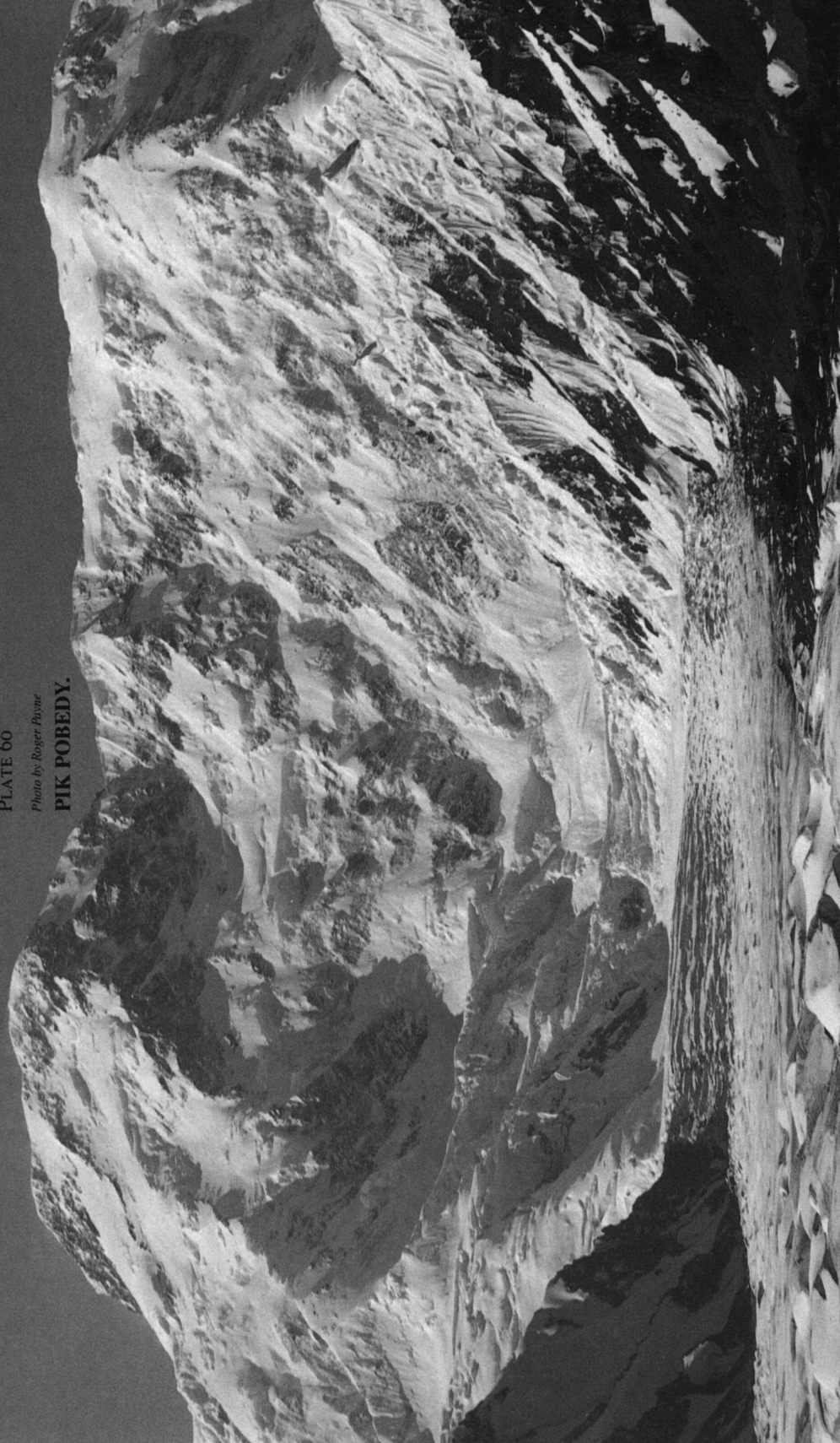
Former USSR

Kamchatka Volcanoes. One pleasant benefit from the improving relations between what was the USSR and the United States is that previously closed areas are becoming open for exploration and climbing. One of these is the Kamchatka peninsula with its 29 active and 300 dormant volcanoes. It had been closed to foreigners from 1917 to 1990. Our group of Americans organized by REI Adventures and of Russians from the Alpinklub Kutq of Petropavlovsk climbed several of these volcanoes in late August and early September. The Americans were Frith Maier, Chuck and Judy Demarest, David Koester, Chuck Wolf and I.

RICK JALI

Khan Tengri and Pik Pobedy. Our expedition was composed of Roger Payne, Iain Peter and Allen Fyffe from the UK and me from New Zealand. Our trip was

PLATE 60
Photo by Roger Payne
PIK POBEDY.



arranged through the International Mountaineering Camp Khan Tengri based in Alma Ata. We were flown from Moscow to Alma Ata and transported by van to Camp Karkara in the foothills. We were flown by helicopter to Base Camp on the South Inylichek Glacier at 4100 meters. After a week of acclimatization, we left on July 23 for an attempt on Khan Tengri. The first afternoon, we traveled to an Advance Base on the glacier at 4300 meters. After a night there, we continued up the avalanche-prone Semenovskiy Glacier to camp at 5400 meters. On July 25, we ascended to snow caves beneath the west col at 5800 meters and rested a few hours before going onto the west ridge itself. Payne and I bivouacked at 6200 meters while the other two continued on to 6400 meters. There are few campsites on the ridge and they are small and exposed. On the 26th, Peter and Fyffe climbed to the summit but Payne and I, feeling the altitude, descended to Base Camp. We two set out again on July 28 and reached the summit of Khan Tengri on the 30th. Peter and Fyffe headed for Pik Pobedy but were turned back by bad weather. All four of us moved to Advance Base on the Zvezdozhka Glacier at the foot of Pik Pobedy on August 5. On the 6th, we climbed up to the Dickey Pass and up the north ridge of the west peak to snow caves at 5800 meters. Two nights were spent there due to bad weather. On August 8, it dawned clear and in a very long day we climbed the west peak (6918 meters, 22,698 feet) and traversed a short distance along the west ridge of Pik Pobedy to snow caves at 6900 meters. The next day, Fyffe and Peter climbed to the summit (7439 meters, 24,276 feet). Payne and I followed a day later on August 10. These were the first New Zealand ascents of both peaks and the first UK ascent of Pik Pobedy and the second of Khan Tengri. Prior to our arrival, another British team (Rick Allen, Simon Yates and Shaun Smith) had made the first British ascent of Khan Tengri, also by the normal west ridge. Their attempt on Pik Pobedy was turned back by illness and bad weather.

JULIE-ANN CLYMA, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

Granitic Peaks of Kirgizia. An informative article describing this comparatively unknown region, many ascents there and climbing opportunities appears earlier in this *Journal*.

Piramidalny. In the summer of 1991, five climbers from the United Kingdom visited the Ak-Su massif. After a delay caused by a mud slide on a road, we were finally helicoptered to the Asan Base Camp on August 2 from the Ak-Su International Base Camp. We spent the rest of the day ascending Point Holland, a rock gendarme of perfect granite. The following day, we made a fine climb on the Yellow Wall. After bad weather, time began to run out. We established an advance base in hopes that the clouds would lift. Miraculously, the next morning dawned clear. The first day saw us gain the west ridge at 4500 meters. The next day, we climbed over a subsidiary peak and descended to a 5000-meter col. The final day of the ascent took us to the summit (5507 meters, 18,068 feet) of