

206-7.) Our route follows the buttress bordering the west face on the left. Although the approach was moderately threatened by séracs, the buttress itself was safe and interesting mixed climbing. Seven moderate pitches (5.6) led to the northwest ridge, which we followed to the summit after 8½ hours of climbing. We descended the north ridge, which connects Kongma Tse to Nuptse. We were back in Base Camp at seven P.M. and in Lukla three days later. I returned up-valley to the village of Monjo to camp at 6370 meters below the north face of Kusum Kanguru on November 2. On November 5, I left Base Camp at 4:30 A.M. and arrived at the foot of the 1500-meter-high wall at seven A.M. I bypassed the bergschrund on rock (5.7) and joined the central couloir, first climbed by John Ball and Tom Curtis in 1985. Four hundred meters up the face, my helmet was shattered by falling ice. Luck and a good ice placement kept me from going to ground. I continued on good ice, which was a sustained 60° to 80° on the upper half. I declined to climb the rotten snow of the final 20 meters and photographed the summit (6367 meters, 20,890 feet) from there at 2:30 P.M. The descent was frightening. After 12 rappels and 1000 meters of down-climbing, I got back to the foot of the wall at 6:30 and to Base Camp at 8:30. I had permission to try the Lowe-Breashears route on the north face of Kwangde (6011 meters, 19,720 feet). Due to a dry and warm post-monsoon season, there was little ice on the lower 300 meters of the wall. Faced with compact slabs and a two-day snowstorm, I abandoned the attempt and flew out to Kathmandu on November 14.

MARC FRANCIS TWIGHT

*Cho Oyu from the South in the Pre-Monsoon Season.* As in past years, the west side of Cho Oyu has been a very popular objective for many expeditions. A Belgian expedition was led by Bernard Mousny. On May 7, Pascal de Brouwer completed the 100th ascent of the peak along with Swede Göran Kropp, who was with an expedition approaching from the north. On May 8, Mme Linda LeBon and Danu Sherpa also reached the top with climbers who had approached from the north. On the descent, Danu sped ahead, leaving exhausted Linda LeBon far behind. She decided to sleep without bivouac gear at 8000 meters and set off a night-rescue alarm. An expedition of eight Germans and seven Austrians led by Peter Geyer placed Teja Finkbeiner on the top on May 17. An eight-member American expedition led by Donald McIntyre failed, reaching 6100 meters on April 17. (See also expeditions to Cho Oyu from Tibet.)

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Cho Oyu, Post-Monsoon Spanish Expeditions.* Our expedition from Navarra was composed of Dr. José María Artetxe, Alfonso Ballano, Javier Bermejo, Juan Beroiz, Pili Ganuza (f), José Miguel Goñi, Agustín Pagola and me as leader. On September 2, we arrived at Base Camp below the Nangpa La at 5100 meters. We followed the normal route, traversing the west face and installing Camps I, II and III at 6300, 6900 and 7300 meters on September 6, 7 and 18. The route is easy and only the séracs between Camps I and II require much attention.