

*Kangchenjunga Ascent and Tragedy.* An expedition of 6 Belorussians, 4 Russians and two Bulgarians was led by Belorussian Sergei Novikov. Russia's best known woman climber, Yekaterina Ivanova, and the best known female alpinist of Bulgaria, Yordanka Dimitrova died on this expedition to the southwest face of Kangchenjunga. Ivanova was killed by an avalanche that struck a bivouac at 6700 meters on the night of October 9/10 while she and Belorussian Sergei Jvirbiva were sleeping. When a search party went to their bivouac site, they found only a crampon on the snow. Dimitrova disappeared on October 23 after she was last seen by teammates at 8300 meters in her bid for the summit without the use of bottled oxygen. She was never seen again. Belorussian Viktor Kulbachenko, who left their highest camp five hours after her for his own summit attempt, did reach the summit with artificial oxygen. He reported that he saw her ski pole and ice axe at different places along the route and that her tracks ended at 8300 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kumbhakarna (Jannu) Attempt.* Pierre Rizzardo, leader, Robin Molinatti, Xavier Cret and I attempted a climb on the north side of Kumbhakarna (7710 meters, 25,295 feet). We planned to climb a new route leading to the virgin pass between Sobithongie (6670 meters) and Kumbhakarna and then to ascend the northwest buttress of Kumbhakarna. On September 20, we set up Base Camp at 4600 meters on the right side of the Kumbhakarna Glacier. We acclimatized by fixing ropes on the 700-meter-high rock buttress which leads to the foot of the north face. We established Camp I at 5400 meters on October 1. It took three days to climb with fixed ropes the first 500 meters of the steep face below the pass. On the fourth day, we completed the climb to bivouac in the pass at 6350 meters. To there we had found impressive ice walls with sustained 80° sections and then 150 meters of strenuous mixed climbing. We rested at the pass on October 11. We then climbed on the northwest buttress, finding ice climbing up to 70°, harder than we had expected. We spent the night at 6900 meters in a tiny snow cave carved in an ice flute. Because of obvious difficulties in the traverse to the southwest ridge and because of wind and cold, we renounced the effort the next morning and rappelled off.

PAUL ROBACH, *Club Alpin Français*

*Makalu, Kangchungtse and Chomo Lönzo.* The twelve climbers of our Condor Adventures expedition established Base Camp at 5300 meters on the Barun Glacier on April 2. Just eleven days later, supported by the rest of the team, Russian staff member Anatoli Bukreev and Bolivian Bernardo Guarachi finished fixing rope to the Makalu La at 7400 meters, the site of Camp II. A mountain guide in Bolivia, Guarachi says he is the first American Indian to climb in the Himalaya. He is an Aymará. Bad weather stalled us for a week until April 20 when Bukreev and Guarachi slept at Camp II. On April 27, this pair,