

getting ready to descend, Apellaniz died, surrounded by his friends, whose efforts could not save his life. That same day, the three, aided by the magnificent Italians, arrived at Base Camp. Juanjo San Sebastián was utterly exhausted and suffering from severe frostbite. The Chinese authorities prevented an evacuation by helicopter, giving trivial excuses. We denounce this scandalous attitude, all the more so considering the high prices and the complex regulations they impose on climbers. They must be pressured to take the necessary measures in a case of emergency.

SEBASTIAN ALVARO, *Televisión Española*, "Al Filo de lo Imposible"

*K2 Attempt.* The object of our expedition was to open a new route on the northwest face of K2. After getting to the tongue of the K2 Glacier with 35 camels, we carried loads to Base Camp, which we established at 4950 meters on June 19. We were surprised to find the Anglo-American expedition there, with whom we discussed the common use of fixed ropes, which had already been placed up to 6200 meters. We had known the Spaniards would be there. We established Camps I and II at 5750 and 6500 meters. For the first part of the route to 6200 meters, we followed the "normal" route, first climbed by the Japanese. We then climbed to the right of that to a big crevasse, where we put Camp II. From there, we continued alpine-style without fixed ropes or camps. On July 28, Romano Benet, Nives Meroi (f), Filippo Sala and Gian Battista Galbiati headed up a diagonal ramp to bivouac at 7300 meters; they bivouacked the next night at 7600 meters. They were to be followed with a two-day interval by Fabio Agostinis and Manuel Lugli. A third bivouac was made by the leaders at 7900 meters. At dawn on July 31, Benet, Meroi and Sala set out in extreme cold and overcame great difficulties on 70° ice and hard rock. They reached 8400 meters, expecting to find a connection with the summit cone, but there seemed no feasible route from the north ridge onto the snowfield on the north face or onto the northwest face. They returned to bivouac at 8000 meters and descended to Base Camp the next day. In the few remaining days, we hoped to make the ascent via the normal route, but the rescue operation of the Spanish climbers took all our attention and we gave up hope for the ascent.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Exploration on the North Side of the Gasherbrums, Broad Peak and K2.* Kurt Diemberger has written an article about the traverse which he and Rollo Steffens and Erika Prokasch made from the northern side of these peaks in the Karakoram. It appears earlier in this *Journal*.

*Chiring (Karmo Go), Panmah Mustagh, Karakoram.* Ten Japanese under the leadership of Hiroshi Fujii ascended unclimbed Chiring (7090 meters, 23,262 feet), which lies in the Panmah Mustagh on the Chinese-Pakistani frontier. The mountain had unsuccessfully been attempted by Japanese in 1986 and 1988.

They had a long approach via the Aghil Pass and the Shaksgam River. They climbed the southeast face and the northeast ridge. Their first efforts were directed at the southeast ridge, but they changed to a spur that descends from Chang Tok Peak, which is northeast of Chiring. They placed Advance Base, Camps I, II and III at 4900, 5200, 5700 and 6300 meters, the latter in a col between Chiring and Chang Tok. On July 16, they established Camp IV at 6400 meters on the northeast ridge. On July 19, Hideki Kawaguchi, Akihito Yamasaki and Hiroki Yoshida climbed to the summit. In the next week, all the other members of the expedition reached the top.

*Chongtar, Chinese Karakoram and Improperly-Disposed-of Garbage by Others.* On September 8, three of four members of our expedition made the first ascent of Chongtar (7350 meters, 24,115 feet). Expedition members were Australians Greg Mortimer, Luke Trihey, Sue Werner and I from New Zealand. Mortimer, Trihey and I reached the summit plateau of Chongtar with extreme cold and blowing snow after occupying a camp at 6000 meters and a snowcave/crevasse on the west ridge at 6750 meters. We climbed the main summit and the 7250-meter north peak; only the 7180-meter south summit remains unclimbed. Chongtar is only eight kilometers west of K2. Chongtar was named "Mount Spender" after the Shipton-Tilman surveyor on their 1937 "Blank on the Map" expedition. Only one previous attempt had been made on the peak when Americans led by Jim Bridwell unsuccessfully tried the west ridge in 1984. Accompanied by an 11-member trekking party, we used the normal approach to the Shaksgam valley, using 20 camels over the Arghil Pass from Bazar Dara. We reached the Suget Jangal oasis on August 16 after eight days. With no bridges, there were many serious river crossings over the Shaksgam and K2 rivers. The camels were used to place Base Camp at the snout of the Sarpo Lago Glacier on August 22. Some of the trekking party helped carry loads and establish Advance Base on August 26 below the Chongtar Glacier before they left, leaving us isolated until the return of the camels on September 17. We also visited the K2 valley and went up the Sarpo Lago to Changtok near Younghusband's 1897 Mustagh Pass. With six camels, we retraced our route and reached Bazar Dara on September 20 in only four days. A significant blotch on the map resulted from large Italian and Spanish K2 expeditions which were departing the area upon our arrival. We found Suget Jangal, one of the most precious campsites in the heart of the high Karakoram, so disgusting we could not possibly camp there with our trekking party. The European climbers had been in residence for several months and were mired in heaps of rotting vegetables, glass, tins and plastic packaging. Incredibly, they were surrounded by their own shit and seemingly had never considered digging communal latrines or slops pits. Sherpas from earlier expeditions had painted their names on rocks in large yellow letters. Knowing how pristine Suget Jangal had been from previous visits in 1990 and 1992, Mortimer and CMA deputy director Jing Ying Jie were outraged. Jing forced the European's Chinese, Nepali and Pakistani staff to initiate a clean-up. Sadly, much of the garbage