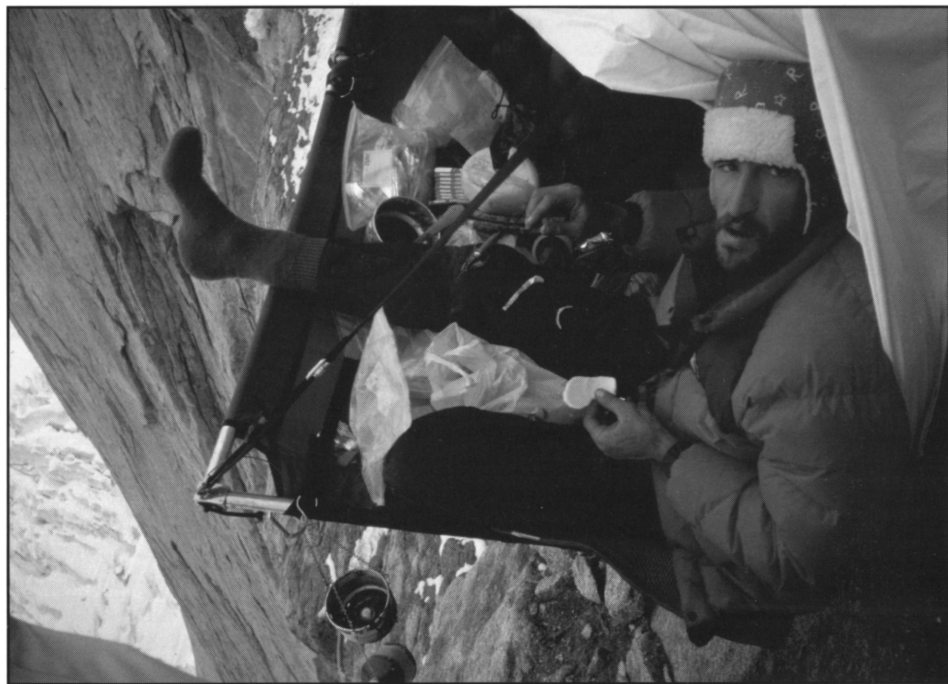


in Pakistan in June and told a local newspaper that they aimed to climb Disteghil Sar by a previously unattempted route. According to a Pakistani liaison officer, the team left their base camp on July 8 to attempt the climb. They later split into two groups for a final ascent by different routes. One group, which had tried a rocky route to the summit, returned to Camp Three in bad weather on August 12. The surviving climbers, named as Thomas Davies, Dominic Harmond and Peter Marriott, said they had seen their companions, who were attempting a snow and ice-route, through a long camera lens the same day, but then did not see them again.

They climbed back up to Camp II and waited there until August 23, returning to Base Camp on August 26. (*Reuters*)

*Amin Brakk, West Face, Attempt\**. The expedition was composed of Jose Carlos Tamayo, Adolfo Madinabeita and Jon Lazkano. We established Base Camp at 4200 meters on May 15 at a site called "Bila Congo" by the locals. We wanted to attempt the 1400-meter west face of Amin Brakk in the eastern Karakoram. After bringing everything to the base of the wall, we fixed the first 450 meters and began up the wall. From the start the difficulties were very sustained, with ice, rock, free and aid climbing on mediocre rock in the first part of the wall. Above the first part, we attacked the central wall, which was vertical to overhanging (A2, A4). We set up our second bivouac on top of a large roof at 950 meters up the climb. Above this we continued directly toward the summit ridge. In total we climbed 1150 meters. At this point a very, very violent storm prohibited us from continuing to the summit. We endured six days of bad weather without leaving our portaledge, after which we abandoned our attempt. In all we had spent 15 days on



Jon Lazkano on Amin Brakk. Jon Lazkano collection

the wall. The descent was made under very dangerous conditions. The wall is objectively very dangerous, with ice and stonefall, etc. Climbing to our high point was rated 5.10 A4 65/70°.

This was my second attempt. The first attempt was slightly more direct, but therefore more exposed to rockfall.

JON LAZKANO, SPAIN

*\*See accompanying photo of Amin Brakk in the opening pages of this journal.*

*Makrong Chhish, East Ridge, Attempt.* It was reported that Stephen Sustad and Simon Yates made two attempts on the east ridge of Makron Chhish in August. The first, from August 26-29 via the northeast face, was thwarted at 5400 meters by unclimbable snow; the second, which approached the ridge via the southeast flank on September 1-6, reached 6400 meters before being stopped by dangerous snow conditions and bad weather. (*High Mountain Sports* 171)

*Chukutan Peak, First Ascent.* It was reported that Spaniards J. Bañales, I. Peribañez, C. Reima, L. Tejada, M. Fernandez and J. Mugara had planned to attempt Spantik, but were forced to change objectives due to snow conditions. They climbed Chukutan Peak (6290 m) and another unnamed peak (6100 m). In both cases they reached the summit ridge but not the main summit due to complicated, and dangerous, ridge traverses up to them. (*Desnivel*)

*Redakh Brakk, and Other Ascents.* During the Haramosh II Expedition in 1995, we could not help noticing a prominent unknown mountain that dominated the view to the northeast looming up behind the ridge bounding the far end of the Sgari Byen Gang Glacier. Exact location was problematical. The Nushik La is the old pass linking the Kero Lungma and Hispar glaciers, and our mystery mountain appeared to be somewhere nearby. Subsequent study of maps and photos showed the peak to appear much closer to another pass, the Bolocho La. This location was confirmed on the ground during the 1996 trip.

The suspected location close to the Bolocho La meant that we had a choice of three approach glaciers: Kero Lungma, Bolocho, and East Makrong. We chose the Kero Lungma; it seemed to offer plenty of alternative objectives should our primary one prove too dangerous or inaccessible. In the event, our mountain was not readily accessible from the Kero Lungma, but we had a whole glacier-full of mountains to go at, and we had no record of any of them having been touched.

Dave Wilkinson and Colin Wells had all seen the mountain from the Haramosh trip, and fancied a go. Bill Church and Tony Park later joined the team.

Our mountain appeared to be under the magic 6000 meters limit, so Pakistani government permit, peak fee and liaison officer were not required. Our approach followed the south bank of the Kero Lungma Glacier. Base Camp was situated in a small ablation valley, easily reached from the glacier below, but well banked up with old snow. Above it rose a mountain of about 5000 meters (later named "Tsuntse Brakk"—"Small Peak," an unimaginative but descriptive name). We decided to try this peak as acclimatization and for a view. A short section 150 meters from the top gave a pitch of Scottish Grade 3, and proved quite awkward with only one ax and a ski-stick each. The view from the top was tremendous, but identification of our mystery mountain still proved uncertain.