

the drill (we only placed the occasional bolt at the occasional belay when we couldn't use Friends or nuts). We made the fourth camp on a big ledge at the foot of the final 350-meter vertical pillar, which ended up being the most technical part of the route. We finished the rock climbing and attacked the last 200 meters of snow, which gave access to the summit. This we reached on July 16. We rappelled the final pillar of the route and descended via a corridor that gave access to the valley, dragging all of our gear and trash, which saved us from rappelling the entire wall. We called our route *Ludopatía* ("Compulsive Gambling") (A3 7a+, 1200m).

After two days of rest back in BC, we proposed to try an ice wall of more than 1500 meters, but the persistent bad weather in all of the Karakoram at the end of July made us desist and return home.

RUBÉN ARAMENDÍA PÉREZ, *Spain*

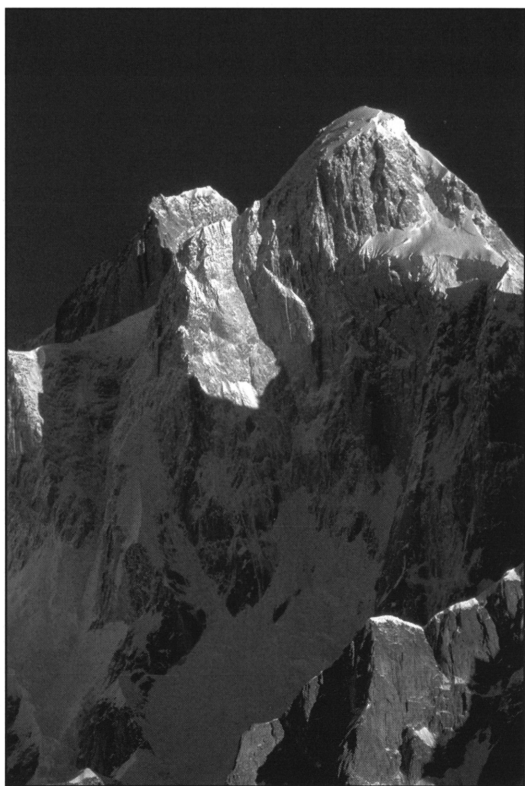
HISPAR MUZTAGH

Pumari Chhish, South Face, Attempt. The south face of Pumari Chhish (7492m) rises 3000 meters from the Jutmal Glacier. This complex face is threatened on most aspects by high hanging seracs, and the line Julie-Ann Clyma and I took followed an obvious spur on the left side.

From ABC (ca. 4570m), a day was spent reaching the lower part of the spur (ca. 5400m). This involved an approach on easy but threatened snow slopes and then technical rock climbing (HVS) followed by 55-degree ice slopes. After a day stopped by snowfall, a traverse across the lower part of the face and an ascent of a hanging face (60° ice) led to an open bivouac at ca. 5900 meters. A further day in very bad weather led to a precarious camp at ca. 6200 meters. This was the maximum height reached before a descent was made back down the route.

The weather conditions were extremely unstable throughout the expedition. Snow fell on all but five days. Retreat from the highpoint was necessitated by the weather and extreme avalanche conditions. Thirty-six hours were spent with avalanches passing around and over the tent. There were no accidents to expedition members or support staff.

We were very fortunate to obtain a permit within one month of applying

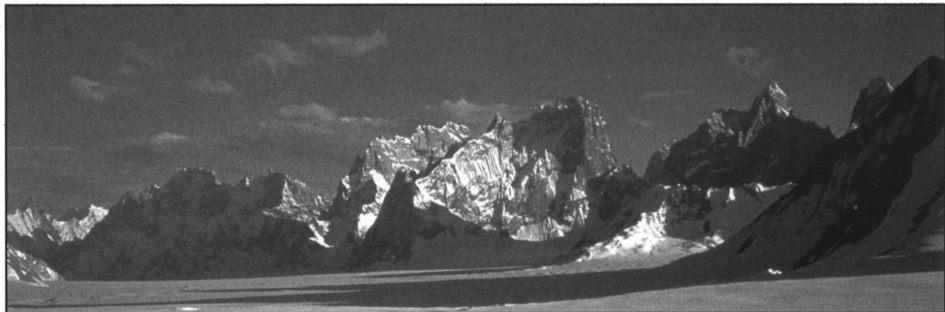


The south face of Pumari Chhish. ROGER PAYNE

to the Ministry of Tourism. They were very accommodating to our tight time schedule, and with the help of our agent, Nazir Sabir Expeditions, we were able to arrive in Islamabad and leave for the mountains on the same day.

ROGER PAYNE, *British Mountaineering Council*

SPANTIK-SOSBUN MOUNTAINS

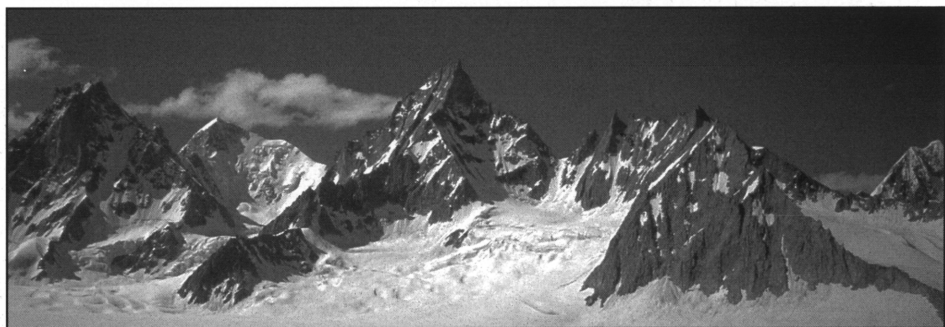


The north branch of Snow Lake, as seen from Advanced Base Camp at the bottom of Tarci Peak.
GIANGI ANGELONI

Snow Lake Area, Cornice and Tarci Peaks. Seven members of the Bergamo section of the Club Alpino Italiano spent July 19 to August 4 in a base camp (4700m) where the Biafo merges with the Sim Gang Glacier. The original project was the second ascent of Solu Tower (S. Venables and partner, 1987) by a new route, but the bad weather persuaded us to change our objective.

The weather broke for only two days and on July 23, Giangi Angeloni, Angelo Carminati, Giorgio Carrara, Gigi Rota and Ennio Spiranelli climbed the central spur (AI 60°, easy mixed, 800m) of the west face of Cornice Peak (5882m). Four days later, on July 28, Giangi Angeloni, Gigi Rota and Ennio Spiranelli made the first ascent of Tarci Peak (ca. 5800m), located on the north side of Snow Lake, in a day from Advanced Base Camp, via the south ridge/west face, a route we called *Imperial Rabbit* (5.9 AI 55°, 12 pitches, 600m). The proposed peak name is in memory of Tarcisio Fazzini, our mountain-climber friend who died in 1990. Skis were used to access all the peaks.

GIANGI ANGELONI, *Club Alpino Italiano*



Peaks above the Snow Lake area. Tarci Peak is the pointed peak in the center of the photo.
GIANGI ANGELONI