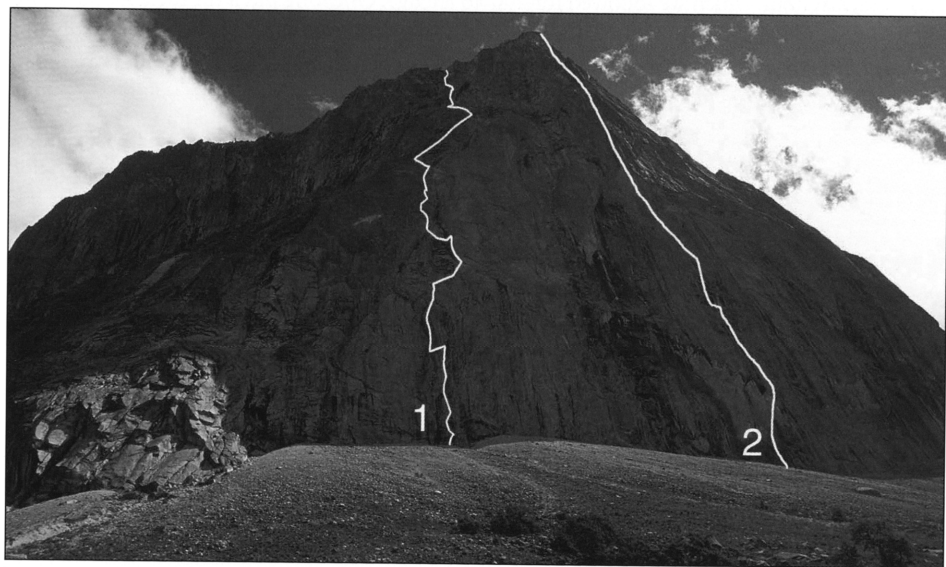


Peru

CORDILLERA BLANCA

La Esfinge, Salida desde la Oscuridad, and Waiting for Jurek. The Polish team of Arkadiusz Grządziel, Bogusław Kowalski, and Jerzy Stefański climbed a new route on the south face of La Esfinge. Their painful acclimatization included climbing up the normal rappel route that descends from the col/saddle. Three steep pitches were presumably new; they named their variation *Waiting for Jurek* (270m, 6 pitches, UIAA V+). They climbed directly toward the ledge midway up, although they didn't use the ledge while climbing; this ledge is where descending climbers traverse off to easy ground. Grządziel and Kowalski made this ascent on June 22. The three also onsighted the Original Route on the east face (700m, 7a). During these climbs, they saw no place for a logical new route on the famous east face, so they attacked the shaded, rotten, and icy south face.

After fixing 170m of rope on June 29, 30, and July 1, they started climbing on July 3 at 7 a.m., climbed until 10 p.m., and had a cold bivy without sleeping bags. They completed the route the next day, reaching the top at 5 p.m. The route tackles a logical line on the left side of the

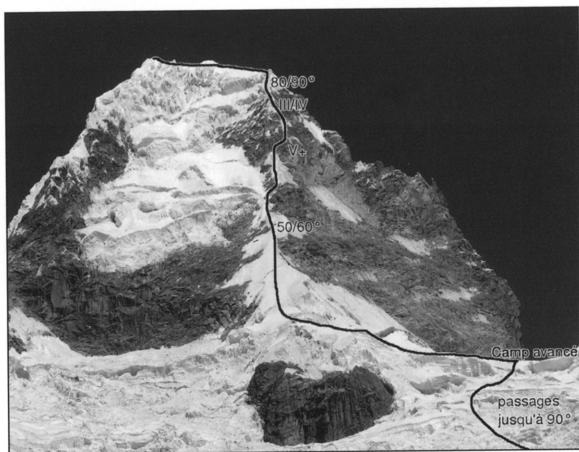


The south face of La Esfinge: (1) *Salida desde la Oscuridad* (Grządziel-Kowalski-Stefanski, 2005). (2) appx line of *The Furious Gods* (Beaulieu-Légaré, 2003). Bogusław Kowalski

wall, 100m left of The Furious Gods (Beaulieu-Légaré, 2003), and offers free-climbing with difficulties around French 6b+ and A2+. The route is 680m long (16 pitches); they did no drilling but left fixed pitons. The rock is rarely good. Actually it is mostly very rotten; cracks are sometimes full of earth and big, loose stones are waiting to sweep climbers off the wall or at least cut the rope. "You have to be very committed to start such a wall," the team declared, but they don't regret it. The route's name is *Salida desde la Oscuridad*, because the most important moment was when they made their Exit from the Shadow [the route name in English] into the sun again.

JAKUB RADZIEJOWSKI, *Warsaw, Poland*

Nevado Uta, Toy's Band. After our climb in the Huayhuash [see below], we returned to Huaraz to learn about conditions. The guide Alfredo, of the agency Mountclimb, helped us considerably. We needed two or three days of rest to recover from a night spent in the El Tambo discotheque, but do not regret it. Benoît Montfort and I then took the bus to Chacas, in the Cordillera Blanca, crossing a 4,900m pass before coming down to Chacas. We got off around 4,200m and made our first bivouac at the foot of the glacier below the east face of Nevado Uta (5,875m). The following day we crossed the glacier and bivied on the northeast shoulder. We sug-



The east face of Nevado Uta, showing Toy's Band. Given the scarcity of old route line photos and dramatically different conditions, it is difficult to know whether this route climbs substantial new ground. The summit ridge has been climbed at least twice prior, and the remaining line may share portions of the 1961 NE Face/Rib (Bogner-Hechtel-Kämpfe-Liska). *Benoît Montfort*

gest leaving early because of threatening séracs. Ice fell almost everywhere and didn't have the politeness to avoid our tracks. We left early and ascended the first part by slopes of easy ice. A rocky projection above, where it's helpful to have cams, contained the route's most technical part (V+ max [French rock grade]). There were beautiful icy passages before we arrived at the summit. We rappelled the route and found two old pitons in a block in a mound of ice (attempt or unknown success?).

PIERRE LABBRE, *France*

Nevado Chugllaraju, British Route to summit ridge. On June 24 John Pearson and I climbed a new route on the west face of Nevado Chugllaraju (5,575m), southwest of Nevado Uta and between it and Nevado Cancaraca. A complex approach led to the route, which started with an icy runnel on the right side of the face, followed by several steeper sections of ice (up to Scottish IV/V) before we reached a mixed upper section. This section proved to be the crux, a couple of pitches going at Scottish V. The rest of the route was mostly 55-60° and, although short (350m, 8