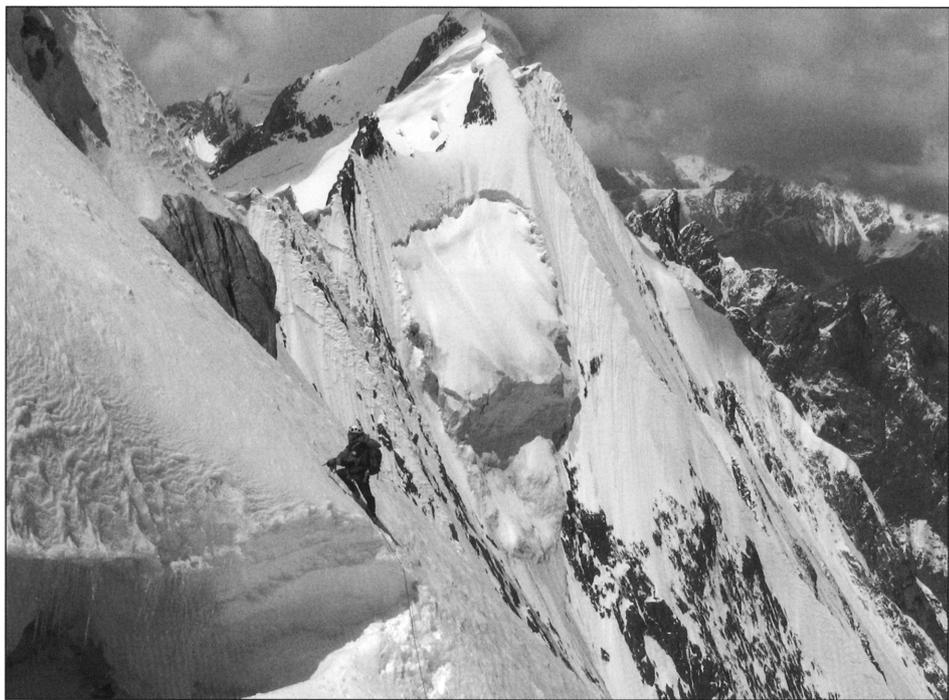


RAKAPOSHI RANGE

Garumbar Glacier, Uyumrung Sar, second ascent. Four friends and I aimed to explore the Garumbar Glacier, the first tributary to the south of the main Hispar Glacier. We hadn't seen any pictures of this valley, nor had any information, and were curious about the northeast face of Spantik, which rises from the head of the glacier. Unfortunately, its 3,000m of rocky and, in places, vertical face was threatened by big hanging seracs on every side. So we looked at several neighboring 6,000m peaks and eventually climbed one, which we named Uyum Rum Chhish after the name of the yak pastures with small lakes that lie at the base of the mountain's east ridge.

Our base camp was situated at 4,000m [*Uyumrung*], six to eight hours walk from Hispar Village. It was a convenient site, grassy, covered with flowers, and with water flowing down from a collection of towering rock pinnacles. The rock on these 500m vertical walls looked to be sound granite [*one of the 300m faces was climbed by a British party at E1/E2; see below*], but the same could not be said of our mountain. Rocky outcrops there were composed of a layered and sandy material, unsuitable for protection with pitons and stoppers.

We climbed the east ridge, placing a tent at 5,000m. From there we climbed the mountain in a single push, in a 23-hour roundtrip. It wasn't very difficult, but neither was it easy. Heavy corniced ridges led to domes of deep snow, hidden crevasses, and bergschrunds. The finish led over a complicated cake of seracs, with some technical ice climbing. We arrived



Approaching the summit seracs on the east ridge of Uyumrung Sar (ca 5,900m) during the second ascent.
Kike De Pablo

on the summit, which we felt was over 6,000m, in light snow. From there we rappelled from a stake. We then downclimbed and rappelled from Abalalovs and snow bollards to reach the tent. Three of us began the climb: Fernando Rubio, Iñaki Ruiz Peribañez, and I. However, Rubio stayed in the tent, and only Ruiz and I reached the summit.

The peak we climbed is the one immediately left of Spantik as you contemplate the classic view of the Golden Pillar from the west, so it might be possible that our mountain already has a name. In any case it was super to be climbing in a largely unknown area packed with elegant 6,000m summits having no names and no existing routes.

We spent 25 days at or above base camp in July and reached Hispar village by jeep in nine hours from Karimabad. We first traveled to Nagar on a tarmac road, then along difficult tracks and dangerous bridges.



At ca 5,500m on the east ridge of Uyumrung Sar during the second ascent. Below is the Garumbar Glacier, with unnamed and unclimbed peaks forming its eastern rim. *Kike De Pablo*

KIKE DE PABLO, *Spain*

Editor's note: At the time the Spanish climbers were unaware of a previous visit by a four-man British expedition. In 1994 Brian Davison, Bill Church, Tony Parks, and Dave Wilkinson reached the Garumbar Glacier, camped at Uyumrung (4,000m) and at 4,800m on the lower east ridge of what they christened Uyumrung Sar. They inspected the route above to 5,000m, where it got steep, then returned to base camp. Returning a few days later, they avoided the rotten rock step above 5,000m, via a couloir on the left, and camped at 5,700m, before it got too hot. The following day they continued to what appeared to be an impenetrable serac barrier guarding the summit. They made a long traverse left to gain the south ridge, up which they climbed easily to the top. They estimated the altitude of this summit, which lay approximately two kilometers north-northeast of Spantik, as ca 5,900m.

CHOGOLUNGMA GROUP

Twin Peak I. Previously unreported was a 2005 visit to the Kero-Lungma Glacier by a small British expedition comprising Bill Church, Pete Holden, and Colin Morton. During July and August they planned to explore the northeast branch and climb some of the biggest peaks at its head but were only able to make the probable first ascent of Twin Peak I (ca 5,500m on maps), which they felt was more like 5,800m. On several occasions they were forced to retreat from high camps on Twin Peak II (ca 5,450m) and Pt 6,123m by poor weather and dangerous conditions. They warn future expeditions that indicated heights vary from one map to another and rarely agreed with their own findings.