

rise, so as to avoid porter troubles arising from fierce and rigid territoriality. We paid Rs. 900 per jeep to Lunku, 73 miles, were forced by strikes and threat of violence to change porters at Zundangram and Shagram and upon reaching the traditional Base Camp at Qulish Zom. In four days we paid Rs. 575 per porter in total. Following the 1967 route of the Czechs, we placed camps at 17,300, 19,300, 21,500 feet and on the west saddle. Previous snowfall made route-finding through crevassed fields interesting but surface conditions were good. Only one day of marginal weather was experienced from July 14 to August 18. The "overhanging chimney" (see *A.J.*, v. 73 (1968) page 250), consisted of 140 feet of easy to moderate 5th-class climbing with an odd off-balance move. The rock was sound but with some overlying ice. Snow slopes of 55° led to the west saddle. We set 1200 feet of line between Camp III and the col. The route to the summit is mixed snow and shattered rock, not difficult. A ski pole with a Pakistani flag was found on the summit, presumably left by the earlier Swiss party. Costs in the Tirich Gol are out of control because a representative of the Ministry of Tourism is not posted to that area and no such system of "porter's book" documentation exists in contrast to the Baltoro. Previous expeditions had paid exorbitant wages, setting new standards of expectation.

ROBERT A. WILSON

Tirich Mir West I. Our expedition was made up of Salvador Boix, Joan Hugas, Pere Planas, Josep Aliu and me as leader. After a four-day approach from Lunku, we placed Base Camp on July 18 at 15,425 feet on the moraine on the right bank of the Upper Tirich Glacier. We placed Camps I, II and III at 18,050, 19,850 and 21,325 feet on July 20, 26 and 30 respectively. On August 4 Boix and I climbed to the col between Tirich Mir and Tirich Mir West I, where we installed Camp IV at 23,625 feet. On August 5 we two ascended the ridge to the summit of Tirich Mir West I (7487 meters, 24,564 feet). We had fixed rope on the difficult spots between Camps III and IV. Aliu had to descend to 10,000 feet with pulmonary edema, but he was later able to rejoin the expedition.

RAMÓN ESTIU, *Unió Excursionista de Catalunya*

China

Another Gongga Shan Tragedy. A horror story comes from another Japanese attempt on Gongga Shan. The five-man, two-woman expedition was led by Hideaki Saito. They reached Base Camp at 11,500 feet on the Hailoko Glacier on March 19, hoping to complete the new route on the northeast ridge, so disastrously attempted by other Japanese in 1981. (See *A.A.J.*, 1982, pages 284-5.) After skirting the icefalls, they established Temporary Camp I, Camps I, II, III (on the northeast ridge col) and IV on March 28, April 4, 9, 21 and

26 at 13,450, 16,075, 17,050, 19,000 and 20,350 feet respectively. The entire route from Camps II to IV was fixed with rope. S. Suzuki slipped and having damaged his back, had to return. Hironari Matsuda and Makoto Sugawara established Camp V at 22,300 feet on April 28. On the 29th their summit attempt took them to a bivouac close to the summit, but bad weather on the 30th precluded going higher. In their last radio transmission, they reported difficulty in finding the descent route. Leader Saito had had to return to Japan for personal reasons and Deputy Leader Yoshio Takeda and the two women moved up to Camp II on May 2. On the 4th they made a half-hearted attempt to climb up the fixed ropes from Camp II but were technically incapable of doing so! They assumed the others were dead and on May 6 descended to Base Camp, which they evacuated on May 9. It is difficult to know what progress Matsuda and Sugawara made, but eventually they reached Camp I. Sugawara could descend no farther but Matsuda kept on going down. He was found at 9500 feet on May 21 by local herb gatherers. A massive rescue was carried out, involving 200 Chinese, but Matsuda could be saved only with the loss of both frozen feet above the ankles and all ten fingers. (More details appear in Iwa To Yuki, N° 90, pages 99-100.) In September Japanese returned and unsuccessfully tried to retrieve Sugawara's body. On September 27 Takeshi Nakatani died from cerebral and pulmonary edema during the attempt and the effort was called off.

Gongga Shan, North Face and Northwest Ridge Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition was composed of Ruedi Alder, Guido Bumann, Claus Coester, Andreas Eschmann, Georges Herren, Thomas Hess, Kurt Weibel and me as leader. We had planned to climb the mountain by the route attempted by the tragic Japanese expedition of 1981, from the Yan-Tsöko valley and over the Sun-Yat-Sen col. The approach under the north face was so threatened by avalanches that we gave up the plan and climbed through a steep snow basin up the north face to reach the northwest ridge, the first-ascent route, just beyond the "Hump." On April 28 we reached Chengtu, where we were joined by our liaison officer, Xiao Mong. We got to the last village, Sin-Sin at 6000 feet on April 29. On May 1 we started to our 13,600-foot Base Camp, which we reached in three days. The 15 porters made four relays to there. On May 8 we got for the first time to Advance Base at 17,000 feet in the snow basin. From Base Camp we first followed a lateral moraine and bypassed an icefall on the eastern edge of the glacier to the basin. Good weather favored our establishing Camp I three-quarters of the way up the couloir beside the north face. I suffered a broken arm while returning to Base Camp and had to spend the rest of the expedition there. On May 16 the northwest ridge was reached and on the 17th Camp II stood at 21,325 feet on the northwest ridge. On May 23 we placed Camp III on an ice bulge at 22,800 feet. The first summit bid by Coester and Weibel failed in high winds on May 24. On May 25 Alder, Eschmann and Georges Herren set off for the summit at six A.M. and got there at two P.M. The last part of the ridge was of difficult ice and rock and steeper than we had expected. About a quarter of an hour below the summit on the

descent Eschmann broke the sharp edge of the ridge and plunged down the north face to his death. We gave up thoughts of a further ascent. The weather had a nearly daily pattern. Each morning thick clouds rose from the lower parts of Sichuan up the valleys until they formed a sea of clouds with an upper level from 11,000 to 16,500 feet. While Base Camp was under heavy clouds and for days in heavy rain, lovely sunny weather reigned above. In the afternoon the clouds rose and the weather deteriorated in the evening, often with snowfall, but by morning the weather up high was lovely again.

ERWIN HERREN, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

Gongga Shan Attempt. Canadians led by Roger Griffiths attempted the first-ascent route on Gongga Shan in the spring. They were plagued by bad weather, avalanches and an accident and did not reach the ridge. Details are lacking.

Anyemaqen, First Ascent by Japanese, 1981. Details previously lacking of the first ascent of Anyemaqen have appeared in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 88. An expedition of eleven men and two women was led by Yuzo Tada. From Base Camp at 14,750 feet east of the mountain, Camp I was placed at 17,000 feet on May 7, 1981 and Camp II was established at 18,700 feet May 19 after a week of heavy snowfall. On May 22 Giichiro Watanabe, Yoshio Yamamoto and Katsumi Miyake reached the summit. Five others got to the top on May 25.

Anyemaqen, 1981, Third Ascent. [On page 285 of *A.A.J.*, 1982, details were lacking about two ascents of Anyemaqen. We are grateful for further details sent us by Herr Hupfauer, which arrived too late to be published last year.—*Editor.*] Our Austro-German party of seven took two days from Shie San Shang to get to Base Camp at 14,750 feet on the Quheershaoma Glacier on June 2, 1981. We were held up by bad weather until June 7 when we established Camp I at 16,250 feet. Camp II was placed at 18,600 feet on June 9. That day we watched the American group reach the summit! We followed the route of the Japanese first-ascent party, which definitely climbed the peak in May 22, 1981. This led over the Quheershaoma Glacier and the east-northeast ridge to the summit of P 6000, over P 6090 and P 6127 to the main summit (6282 meters, 20,610 feet). We found some 3000 feet of Japanese fixed rope. On June 10, 1981 Hans Gaschbauer, Franz Lämmerhofer, Dr. Gerhard Schmatz, Peter Vogler and I climbed to the summit for the third ascent and the second by our route.

SIEGFRIED HUPFAUER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Mount Everest Attempt. Our expedition had as members Jan van Banning, Willem ten Barge, Eelco Dijk, Geert Geuskens, Gerard Jansen, Ronald Naar, Mathieu van Rijswijk, Gerard van Sprang, Johan Taks, Han Timmers, Bart Vos, Robert Weijdert and me as leader. Local transport and all further arrange-

ments were in the hands of the Chinese Mountaineering Association. Their fees are stiff in comparison with those in other countries such as Nepal and also some of their services will have to improve, but their spirit of cooperation was excellent and we were, on the whole, very satisfied. We planned to climb the traditional route of the pre-World War II expeditions. We made the following Camps: Base Camp (4 miles south of the Rongbuk Monastery), I, II, III, IV (on the North Col) and V at 17,000, 18,375, 19,700, 21,325, 23,000 and 24,950 feet on August 16, 18, 22, 25 September 16 and October 5 respectively. The delay in establishing Camp V was due to a serious avalanche accident on September 29. One member escaped with bruised ribs, but Dijk broke eight ribs, suffered a punctured lung and was dramatically saved after a bivouac at 22,300 feet, thanks to all expedition members available and the strong support of Tibetan "high-altitude assistant climbers." He has now recovered. Our high point of 25,750 feet was reached on October 7. In August the mountain was whiter than we had seen in any photograph published before. The conditions leading to the North Col were correspondingly dangerous and led to the accident and a number of narrow escapes later. The traditional approach lines were rejected and a moderately steep (45° to 55°) line was fixed to the left of the sérac zone of the normal way. In the middle of September the monsoon ended, but instead of the usual northerly circulation, fierce southwest winds established themselves. The snow was blown off the mountain in less than a week, leaving no scope for alternative routes. When the winds and temperature of -35°C continued, the expedition was broken off on October 10. The mountain was absolutely free of cloud most of the time and looked harmless from Base Camp, but above the North Col the wind made life downright dangerous.

ALEXANDER VERRIJN STUART, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen-Vereniging*

Mallory and Irvine Second-Step Clues. When honorary member, Shi Zhan Chun, of the Chinese Mountaineering Association spoke at the Annual Meeting of the American Alpine Club in Los Angeles in December 1981, he revealed that the Chinese Everest Expedition of 1960 had discovered much evidence of the British pre-World War II north-face attempts. During an interview of Mr. Shi, many people in the audience understood his interpreter to say that a hank of manila rope and a short pole were discovered *above* the Second Step (28,480 feet). This evidence would prove that Mallory and Irvine had indeed surmounted this severe obstacle. If true, it advances dramatically the possibility that the pair actually reached the summit in 1924. Yet, Mr. Shi gave altitudes of those 1960 discoveries and they were all below the First Step near or at the site of the 1933 Camp VI. Many attempts to ascertain the exact location of the find were made. Finally Chris Bonington met with Mr. Shi. He writes that he asked Mr. Shi about this find and had its location pointed out to him on a photograph. The location was *below* the First Step in line with the altitudes Mr. Shi originally gave. The working oxygen system the Chinese found with 20

atmospheres of gas remaining was also not that of Mallory and Irvine (as reported in *Outside Magazine*) but the set abandoned by Peter Lloyd during his descent from 27,300 feet in the British expedition of 1938.

THOMAS HOLZEL

Changtse. Our members were Dr. Hansjürgen Tauscher, co-leader, Paul Braun, Thomas Dünsser, Martin Engler, Walter Ernst, Rudolf Frick, Andreas Heckmair, Jr., Ludwig Höfle, Peter Lechart, Udo Zehetleitner, Dr. Wilfried Zink and I, co-leader. We drove from Lhasa over increasingly bad roads to Base Camp at the terminal moraine of the Rongbuk Glacier at 16,750 feet. We continued on the historic route up the East Rongbuk Glacier toward Mount Everest and Changtse. Camps I and II were set up on October 2 and 4 at 18,375 and 20,000 feet, the latter at the foot of the long northeast ridge of Changtse. We had no porters but used six yaks and our own backs to there. We first had to climb a 2000-foot snow-and-ice slope with some rock. Camp III was at 21,000 feet sheltered by a rock spur. Above, we fixed some rope on a steep snow-and-ice slope on a wide ridge that led first north and then east. Camp IV was set up on the ridge at 22,650 feet on October 13. On October 14 Zehetleitner and on October 16 Braun, Frick, Höfle and Engler completed the first ascent of Changtse (7550 meters, 24,771 feet).

EDUARD GEYER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Shishapangma, 1981. In *A.A.J.*, 1982 we mentioned the ascent of Reinhold Messner and Friedl Mutschlechner but we lacked details. The pair got to the summit on May 27, 1981 by a route which lies to the right of the normal route. An article with a sketch of the northern routes appears in *Alpin* of May 1982.

Shishapangma. Dr. Makoto Hara led another Nagoya High-Mountain Research Institute expedition, this time to Shishapangma. All members reached the summit by the normal route. One of the members, Masaaki Tomita, made an amazingly fast ascent from Advance Base at 18,700 feet to the 26,291-foot summit, which he reached on October 12, in only 50 hours. Three summit attempts in early October failed. Dr. Hara, Hiroo Komamiya and Hirofumi Konishi got to the summit on October 10. Takayoshi Chiba and Motomu Omiya also reached the top on October 12.

Gang Ben Chen. We left Lhasa on March 22 and established Base Camp at 15,250 feet on March 27 and Advance Base at 18,700 feet on April 4, both on the Boron Plain. Camp I was on the small glacier north of Gang Ben Chen at 20,450 feet. We placed Camp II at 22,000 feet on the snow face above the icefall. Camp III was pitched at 23,300 feet on April 20. On April 21 Riyuko Morimoto, Kozo Matsubayashi, Kazunari Ushida, Shiro Koshima, Takao Morito, Goro Hitomi, Kiyoshi Nakagawa and Hiroshi Kondo climbed to the

summit (7281 meters, 23,888 feet) in 2½ hours. The weather was fine and the route not difficult. The next day Shoichiro Ueo, Takashi Nishiyama and Rikuyo Morimoto stood on the summit too.

YOSHIO KONDO, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto, Japan*

Porong Ri, First Ascent and Tragedy. A 14-man Japanese expedition led by Toru Ito made the first ascent of Porong Ri (7294 meters, 23,898 feet), which is connected to Shishapangma by a ridge and lies some five miles to the northwest. Base Camp was established at 17,000 feet on April 15. Minoru Wada and Yukio Eto got to the summit via the north ridge on May 14, but Wada fell to his death during the descent.

K2, North Ridge. The Japanese Mountaineering Association led by Isao Shinkai and Masatsugu Konishi was composed of 14 climbers and 29 Japanese support people, since no high-altitude local porters were available. "Base Home" was established on May 5 at 12,650 feet on the Shaksgam River. Climbers and support personnel had carried four tons ten miles to Base Camp at 16,075 feet on the K2 Glacier by May 29. The support party withdrew on June 5 and climbing started on June 9. Camp I was placed at 19,000 feet on June 13 but bad weather for 22 of the next 34 days slowed progress. The route was on the north ridge at the edge of the northwest face. Camps II, III and IV were established at 21,650, 24,775 and 25,750 feet on July 17 and 24 and August 1 respectively. The last camp was on a north col. After rope was fixed to 26,250 feet, they all returned to rest at Base Camp. The summit push started on August 9. On August 14 Naoe Sakashita (an American Alpine Club member), Hiroshi Yoshino, Yukihiro Yanagisawa and Takashi Ozaki set out for the summit without oxygen, but Ozaki had to return from 26,900 feet. They climbed unroped above the end of the fixed rope with little equipment and mostly separate from each other. They turned left and climbed the big snowfield in the upper center of the north face. After climbing for some 12 hours, Sakashita reached the summit, soon followed by Yanagisawa. Yoshino arrived an hour later. On the descent Yoshino bivouacked at 27,550 feet and Sakashita and Yanagisawa at 27,400 feet. Yanagisawa had no down jacket and Sakashita hugged him all night long to keep him warm. In the morning Yoshino joined them. While Sakashita descended, the other two waited for the second summit team to bring them a climbing rope and hot tea. When the pair reached the fixed rope, Yoshino untied to straighten out the fixed rope. When he looked up, Yanagisawa had disappeared. On August 16 his jacket was sighted on the north face at 16,750 feet, but avalanche danger prevented a search. On August 15 Kazushige Takami, Haruichi Kawamura, Tatsuji Shigeno and Hironobu Kamuro reached the summit after having carried supplies to the descending climbers. After the mountain had been evacuated, Dr. Toshitaka Sakano on August 29 strolled up a small peak behind "Base Home." He did not return. His body was found on the 31st. He had apparently fallen from a rock on the

top and hurt himself. He had frozen to death while attempting to return. Details, photographs, maps, etc. appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, Numbers 85, 87, 91, and 92.

A Note on the Chinese Name for K2, "Qogir." The Chinese use "Qogir" for the name of the world's second highest peak. The Editor and other experts deplore this name. It would be written "Chogir" in our usual orthography. This is obviously a corruption of "Chogori," a synthetic name made up by Western explorers early in this century from two Balti words: *chhogo* = big and *ri* = mountain. It has no local usage. The mountain was not prominently visible from places where local inhabitants ventured and so had no local name. Years ago, the Survey of India assigned the peak a survey number, K(arakoram)2. This still is its official name in Pakistan. Most Pakistanis I know object strenuously to "Chogori" and insist on the use of the official name, K2. In my experience, the Baltis use no other name for the peak than K2, which they pronounce "Ketu." I strongly recommend *against* the use of the name *Chogori* in any of its forms.

H. ADAMS CARTER

Kongur Attempt, Xinjiang. The first American expedition to Kongur (7719 meters, 25,325 feet) arrived at Base Camp on July 20. The climbing party consisted of Gil Anderson, Rob Leitz, Art Porter, Andy Shidner, Ed Stachon and me as leader. Our goal was to repeat the first-ascent route of the 1981 British Expedition. High temperatures and consequent abysmal snow conditions severely hampered our progress. Even at 18,000 feet the temperature did not drop below freezing on some nights. Snow conditions practical for travel would exist for only four or five hours a day at best. We reached our Camp III at the approximate location of the British Advanced Base in the upper basin of the Koxsel Glacier on August 1. Camp V at 22,000 feet was established on August 8, and a reconnaissance to the Kongur-Kongur Tiubie col at 22,300 feet showed that even there the snow conditions were not better. Since we were running out of both food and enthusiasm for wallowing in slush, a retreat began on August 10. We may have encountered an exceptionally hot summer, or perhaps it was just a mistake to attempt a south-facing route in early August. Skis, which we did not have, would have been a great help. We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the Chinese Mountaineering Association. Our liaison officer, Chen Shangren, and our interpreter, Guo Jin-Wei, executed their duties with consummate skill. This expedition was sponsored by the Colorado Mountain Club Foundation.

RICHARD DIETZ, *Colorado Mountain Club*

P 20,700 and P 21,750, near Kongur. I led twelve schoolboys on a mountaineering expedition to the very west of China, also accompanied by six recently left "Old Boys" of the school and one woman, Fiona Blake. Base

Camp was established at 13,000 feet beside the Karakoram Highway, the new road linking China with Pakistan. We undertook mountaineering, ornithological and botanical projects. First Marc Heading, Dominic Vincent, Robert Taylor and I and then Malcolm Harrison, Giles Hammersley and Mike Logsdon made separate ascents of P 20,700. Both groups climbed the main glacier flowing west to get onto the north ridge, which took us to the summit. The mountain was first ascended by Chris Bonington and Alan Rouse during their reconnaissance expedition in 1980 prior to climbing Kongur in 1981. P 21,750 was ascended by Harrison, Vincent and Guy Smith. They climbed the west ridge setting up a camp at 17,000 feet and a snow hole at 19,400 feet. Both mountains were climbed from an advance base camp at 15,000 feet.

JONATHAN LEE, *Oundle School, England*

Mustagh Ata. A five-man Japanese party led by Keizo Yabuki climbed Mustagh Ata in the autumn. Yukata Takagi and Shohei Suzuki arrived at the summit.

Mustagh Ata. Englishman Norman Croucher was a member of a Mountain Travel expedition to Mustagh Ata led by John Cleare. Croucher reached the summit on two artificial legs.

Mustagh Ata. Our group of eleven rode with jeep and truck south from Kashgar. On July 4 we reached a Kirghiz settlement, Jambukuk, at 12,500 feet, west of Mustagh Ata. Five camels carried our loads to 14,750 feet below the Chal Tumak Glacier on July 6. We climbed alpine style on the part of the mountain between the Chal Tumak and the Tergen Bulak Glaciers, a different route from five of the previous climbs, but the same as the American-Canadian group of September 1981. One climber at our first high camp had high-altitude mountain sickness and had to return to Kashgar, where he recovered. We camped at 17,050, 20,000 and 22,000 feet. The chief difficulty was breaking trail. On July 17 Erich Hofwimmer, Gottfried Heinzl, Baltasar Kendler, Helmut Wagner and I reached the summit (7546 meters, 24,757 feet).

MARCUS SCHUCK, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

U.S.S.R.

Pik Lenin, Pik Kommunizma and Other Peaks on Skis, Pamir Mountains. Our best skier of the extreme, Pavol Rajtar, made several first ski descents in the Pamir Mountains. After several acclimatization climbs, on July 20 he climbed Pik Shatayeva (5700 meters, 18,701 feet) solo and made the first ski descent. The next day he was helicoptered to the Moskvín and Walter Glaciers along with Milan Hoholík, Oleg Štulrajter and Robert Gálfy. They bivouacked at 13,125, 16,400, 19,000 and 23,000 feet and on July 25 climbed the Tzetlin (southwest) Ridge of Pik Korzhenevská (7105 meters, 23,310 feet). Rajtar and

Gálfy made the first ski descent, skiing down the same ridge to the end of the glacier at 16,400 feet in three hours. The next day they climbed back up to 19,000 feet to help evacuate a sick climber. They were then helicoptered to the Fontambek Glacier at 13,125 feet. On July 30 Rajtar and František Compel climbed some 7000 feet up the Burevestnik Buttress to bivouac at 20,000 feet. The next day they skied eight miles across the Pamir Plateau to bivouac at 20,000 feet below Pik Dushanbe, which they climbed on August 1 to bivouac on the summit at 22,650 feet. From there Rajtar soloed Pik Kommunistma (7495 meters, 24,590 feet) and skied down to 20,000 feet. On the 3rd they crossed the plateau, descended the buttress and returned to Fontambek Base Camp. Rajtar was helicoptered to 13,450 feet on the Achik Tash Glacier, which he ascended to Pik Razdelna, where he bivouacked on August 5. He then soloed Pik Lenin (7134 meters, 23,406 feet) in four hours. He skied down the northwest ridge to 22,800 feet and turned north onto the face. He completed the ski of 10,000 vertical feet in two hours and 25 minutes. The slopes were up to 48°.

OTO CHUDÝ, *Czechoslovakia*

Fanskiye Gory, Western End of Pamir-Alai Chain. A strong 10-man expedition of the Czechoslovak Mountaineering Federation was led by Petr Schnábl. They made eleven ascents, six of them firsts. The new routes follow. Jiří Martiš and Petr Valovičon from July 22 to 26 made a new 6500-foot route on the northwest face of Chapdara (5157 meters, 16,919 feet; UIAA VI, A2). It was similar to the south face of the Marmolada. Josef Rakoncaj and Miroslav Šmíd climbed the left side of the west face of Bodkhona (5304 meters, 17,402 feet; VI+, A2) from July 23 to 26. This 5000-foot-high rock face is vertical or overhanging for 3250 feet. Igor Koller and Radovan Velísek climbed the Great Groove on this face (VI+, A1) from July 25 to 28. On July 27 Karel Jakeš and Bohuslav Mrozek climbed the 3000-foot-high north face of Soan (4750 meters, 15,584 feet), which was 60° ice with pitches of 80°. Šmíd soloed two new routes. On July 31 he made a new route on the right of the north face of Maria (5000 meters, 16,404 feet; V), 3525 feet of ice up to 80°. On August 5 and 6 he climbed the great couloir on the left of the north face of Miraly (5170 meters, 16,962 feet; VI with ice up to 80°). The Fanskiye Gory Mountains are a small but spectacular group of inaccessible-looking summits and pinnacles. They offer many climbing problems of high standard on both rock and ice.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Belukha, Katun Range, Altai Mountains, Siberia. Nine Austrian and two Czechoslovakian mountaineers were invited to see this marvelous mountain region. Base Camp was installed by the Soviet Sports Committee at Lake Ak-Kem at 6650 feet. We were there from July 17 to August 15. On July 26 all members reached the top of Belukha (4506 meters, 14,783 feet), the heavily



PLATE 85

Photo by Leo Graf

**East and West Peaks of BELUKHA
from Pik Delone.**

glaciated highest point in the Soviet Altai Mountains. We climbed over Delone (4200 meters, 13,780 feet) and then ascended the northeast ridge. We had two high camps and took seven days in all. This was the first visit by foreigners. We also climbed other summits and enjoyed the very beautiful scenery and especially the warm hospitality of Soviet mountaineers. The good experiences of this experimental expedition will probably lead to the installation of another International Mountain Camp—Altai '83 in the Katun and the Chuiski Mountains. Inquiries should be directed to Director M. Monastyrski, USSR Sports Committee, Skateryni per. 4, 121069 Moscow, USSR.

FRIDEBERT WIDDER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Caucasus, International Mountaineering Camp, July session. After a week of travel from Helsinki to Tallinn, Leningrad and Moscow, Bill Sumner and I were joined by Americans Dick and Louise McGowan and 52 climbers from six other countries to participate in the July Session of the Soviet-sponsored International Mountaineering Camp in the Caucasus. In Moscow we met and were given a hearty send-off by famed Soviet climber-scientist, Eugene Gippenreiter. Our already emotional Soviet experience continued for three more weeks, based in the resort town of Cheget in the Baksan Valley nestled between Asia and Europe. A well-organized staff made every effort to make our experience safe and fulfilling. Although July brought unsettled weather, we spent our first week on a trek over Mestia Pass (3980 meters) into the heart of Soviet alpinism, the land of Svanetia. We survived hearty Georgian hospitality with the McGowans and two Russian companions. After a couple of days we left the medieval town of Mestia and returned to Cheget over Donguz Arun Pass (3060 meters). During our second week, we ascended to the Priute Hut (4200 meters) on Elbrus, and after two days of waiting for better weather and undergoing "passive" acclimatization, we climbed the west summit (5642 meters) of this popular peak (the highest in Europe) with Czechs Pavel and Hana Danihelka and Soviets Vasily Elagin and Sergei Penzov. For our last week we set our sights on the jewel of the Caucasus, Ushba (4710 meters). We were left alone to seek out this statuesque, double-spined granite peak. We awaited better weather while camped on the Ushba Plateau and on the third day had a lucky weather break. We ascended the classic ice faces and long corniced ridge of the northern summit of Ushba in what was felt by the Soviets to be the first American ascent. As happens so often, the freedom to travel to the mountains of the world had afforded us the opportunity to experience far greater events and to be with peoples whose common interest in the mountains had bared similar hopes and desires for peace with each other. As Dr. Gippenreiter had so aptly stated, "if only our leaders could meet on such summits and share such feelings."

ROBERT B. SCHOENE

PLATE 86

Photo by Hans Wagner

BELUKHA's North Face.



