Thamserku, West Ridge. Our expedition made a new route on Thamserku’s west ridge. We had Camps I and II at 5500 and 6000 meters. We fixed 2000 meters of rope. On October 25 Sonam, Pemba Sherpa and I reached for the first time the 6300-meter foresummit. François Poissonnier and I left Base Camp on October 29 and bivouacked at 6200 meters. On October 30 we climbed the narrow, delicate ridge to the summit (6623 meters, 21,730 feet) and returned to the bivouac. We descended to Base Camp on the 31st.

Marc Batard, Club Alpin Français

Thamserku and Lhotse Attempts and Imjatse. Our expedition consisted of Michel Fauquet, Nathalie LeCable, Marie-Odile Martine, Frédéric Potie and me. We climbed from the beginning of September to November. Our first objective was the north face of Thamserku. From September 29 to October 1, Martine, Potie, Fauquet and I attempted the north face from the east col but got only to 5500 meters. On October 3, Fauquet and I made a second attempt, the north face direct. We were stopped 60 meters from the summit by a sérac. We had climbed 1500 meters of ice not unlike the north face of the Droites with pitches up to 85°. We were 16 hours on the face. We then turned to the west face of Imjatse (Island Peak). On October 9, Potie and I got to 5900 meters. On the 14th, Fauquet and I reached the summit (6183 meters, 20,285 feet) by the west face direct in eight hours. The slope averaged 45° with three 70° pitches. Martine, Fauquet and I got to 6100 meters on the same slope on October 18. Fauquet and I then turned, alpine-style, to the direct south face of Lhotse from October 23 to 26. On the first day we climbed 800 meters of ice and snow, mostly 55° with 80° pitches. On the second day we did 1200 meters of similar slopes with some rockfall. On the third day we got to 7200 meters up 50° snow and a rock pitch. Fauquet decided to quit after seeing one of the Poles, who were climbing across the huge couloir to the right of us, fall to his death. We descended on the fourth day. From October 30 to November 2, I joined the Poles Kukuczka, Majer and Falco-Sasal. We climbed the Czech route on Lhotse Shar to Camp V and then traversed left towards Lhotse, establishing Camp VI. We stopped at 8000 meters because of health problems.

Vincent Fine, Club Alpin Français

Thamserku. Koreans led by Yong Tae-Shin climbed Thamserku by a new route, the east face to the south ridge. They had three high camps. Chang Jae-Shin, Jong Back-Ro and Sherpas Ang Dorje and Ang Temba reached the summit (6623 meters, 21,730 feet) on September 27, just twelve days after establishing Base Camp.

Michael J. Cheney, Himalayan Club, and Elizabeth Hawley

Nuptse and Thamserku Attempts. Three Scots led by Malcolm Duff attempted the west ridges of both of these peaks in the post-monsoon but reached only 20,175 feet on Thamserku and 22,000 feet on Nuptse. One climber failed to acclimatize and technical difficulties on both peaks meant slow progress for the other two.

Michael J. Cheney, Himalayan Club, and Elizabeth Hawley

Thamserku, North Face. In 1979 Japanese failed to climb the north face of Thamserku (6608 meters, 21,680 feet) when one member fell ill. In 1980 the leader Koji Okano and Katsuyuki Masunaga returned accompanied by Kimio Takehara and Dr. Keiichi Hayama. They established Base Camp on the Phunki Glacier at 12,800 feet on March 25 and Advanced Base at 16,250 feet under the central buttress on March 28. Repeating last year’s route, bivouac snow caves were made at 18,700 and 20,000 feet. Only Okano and Masunaga climbed high since the other two suffered from the altitude. On August 20 they reached 21,325 feet but returned to Base Camp. They climbed on the 24th to 18,700 feet. They then climbed the rest of the north face and three very difficult pitches on the east ridge to reach the summit at four P.M. on April 25. A full account is in Iwa To Yuki 77 with photographs and a map.