



"WE WILL GO . . ."
—Hillary

"I WOULD be very disappointed at missing Makalu, of course," Sir Edmund Hillary told "The Listener" as this issue went to press, "but if we can't tackle one big peak we should climb another, depending on where we can get a permit. After all, there are 26 mountains over 26,200 feet (8000 metres), and only three of them have been climbed. So there is plenty of scope. The expedition is still on. We will definitely go." Sir Edmund added that he had been under the impression that the New Zealand expedition already had its permission, but several cables had been sent off to find out just what had happened in Nepal.

and on major peaks in the United States," the Bulletin stated. "members of the team have organised and led several successful expeditions to Canada, Alaska, and the Peruvian Andes."

In order that the climbers may take advantage of the few storm-free weeks before the onset of the monsoon, they must reach India by late March. This schedule will allow enough time to complete transportation arrangements for the approach to the base of the mountain. From base camp, reconnaissance of the route and actual climbing operations will be carried out in May and early June.

The American expedition is expected to be a costly one. The most important items budgeted for in the expedition's plans were air travel from San Francisco to Calcutta; wages of Sherpas and porters, who are expected to range in number from 10 to 160 in the course of the expedition's itinerary; food, clothing, and equipment for all; incidental costs of lodging in India; a transport officer; and operating costs in the United States. All items totalled about 45,000 dollars, although this figure was only a provisional one. Part of the cost was expected to be met from rights to

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Long Planning Behind U.S. Bid for Makalu

THE American expedition to Makalu which has been given priority by the Nepalese Government over Sir Edmund Hillary's New Zealand party has a comparatively long history, dating back to December, 1951. The American team will consist of ten men, all of whom are members of the American Alpine Club and the Sierra Club of California. The expedition originally planned to climb Dhaulagiri (26,825 ft.) in 1953, but the Nepalese Government refused permission for this ascent. Plans were then put forward one year and the goal changed to Makalu, the world's fifth highest mountain. Permission for this attempt was announced in America in January of this year.

When the news reached New Zealand from Katmandu last week that the Americans had been given first chance at Makalu *The Listener* had already started writing the story of the American expedition.

In its latest available Bulletin (of May last) the Sierra Club announced that remarkable progress had been made in selecting, and designing special equipment for the assault. Six or seven tons of food and gear, including 27 tents, were expected to be shipped to India in December.

Ansel Adams, one of America's foremost photographers—and regarded by some authorities as the world's greatest landscape photographer—plans to accompany the party. There will also be experts in zoology, physiology and botany. Professor Nello Pace, founder of the White Mountain Laboratory and a physiologist at the University of California, will be responsible for part of a research programme to be carried out incidentally to the attempt on the summit. Dr. Bruce Meyer will serve as expedition doctor. Other members of the team, whose leader is given as William

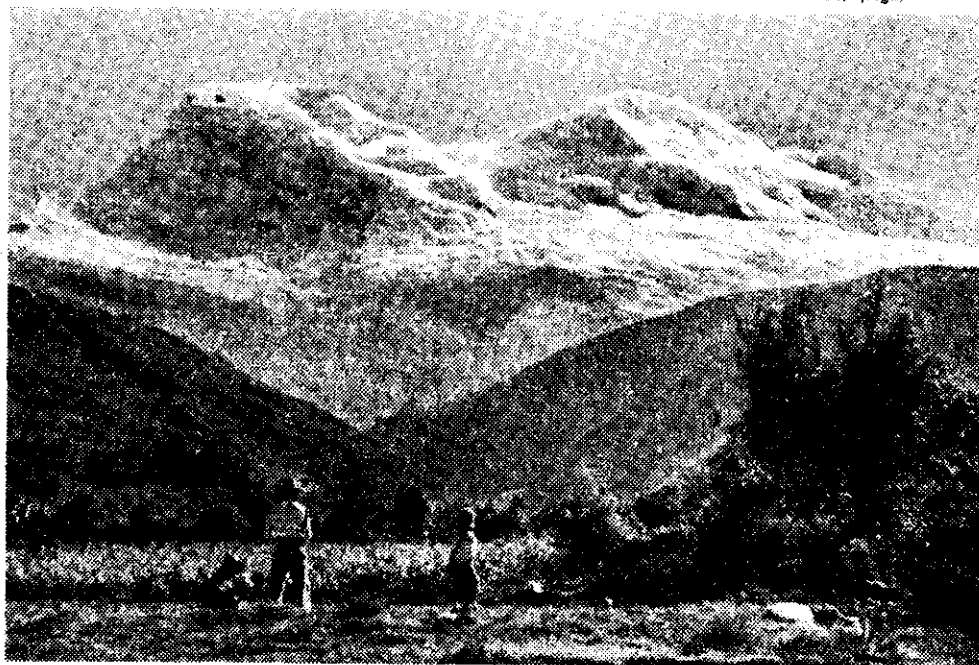
Siri, will probably be drawn from the following: Oscar A. Cook, William Dunmire, Richard Houston, Fletcher Hoyt, Fritz Lippmann, Larry Swan, Alfred W. Baxter, Jr., and Allen P. Steck.

In December, 1951, the Expedition had its formal beginnings. The California Himalaya Committee was formed to carry out the preliminary steps for a full-scale expedition to Nepal in 1953. All members of the team completed high-altitude tests on two training expeditions during the summer of 1952—one to the Cordillera Blanca in the Peruvian Andes, and the other to Mount McKinley, where a new route to the summit was attempted.

Such rigorous training grounds must have provided an ideal preparation for climbing in the Himalayas. The Cordillera Blanca includes Mount Huascarán, the second highest mountain in the western hemisphere, which rises in a magnificent double peak, to 22,217 feet above sea level. The Cordillera Blanca is the culminating point of the Andes in Peru, and one of the incidental hazards of climbing in this area is the risk of contracting the disease *Veruga Peruana*, resembling pernicious anaemia. This comes from infection by a small fly half the size of the malaria-carrying *Anopheles* mosquito, which is abroad at night in the zone between 2500 and 7500 feet. Showings of

the film made during the training expedition to this region were used to raise funds to help finance the Himalayan venture.

The members of the American expedition have been carefully selected. Each has a fine record of mountaineering achievement. Members have been chosen, according to the Sierra Club Bulletin, not only for individual strength and competence, but also for demonstrated ability to work together in a team. "Besides ascending many new and classic routes in the European Alps



HUASCARAN, highest (22,217 feet) point of the Peruvian Cordillera Blanca, where members of the U.S. Makalu expedition carried out altitude tests. Huascarán is the second highest summit in the Western Hemisphere. AT TOP OF PAGE: The citadel of Makalu—an aerial photograph showing the rock defences which must be overcome in the last stages of an assault