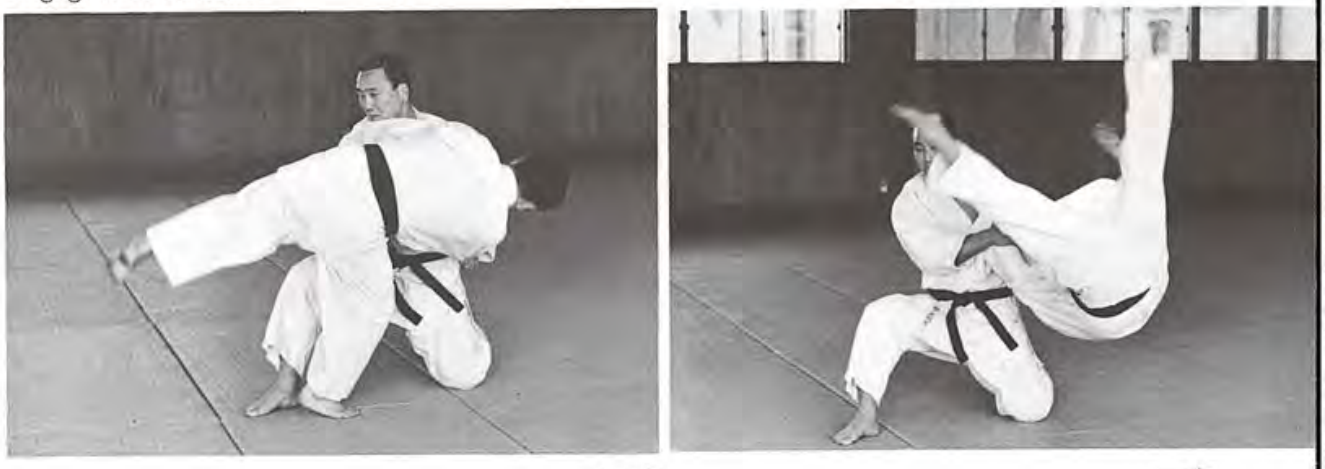


Engagement distance. **1**



◆ ENGAGEMENT

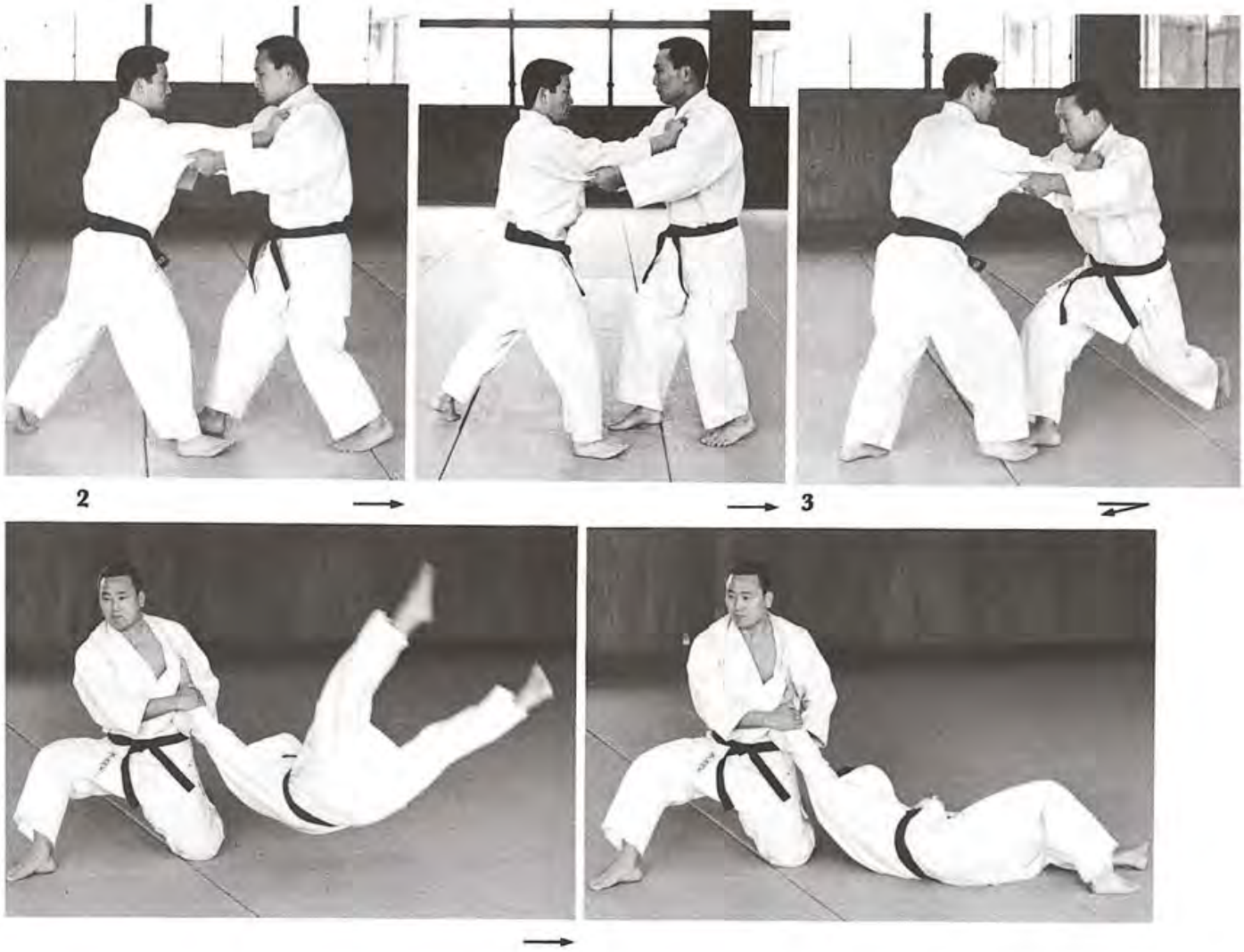
1. UKE: Attacks Tori by simultaneously stepping, taking a standard grip in right *shizentai,* and advancing one step by *tsugi ashi* (right foot, left foot) to push Tori and unbalance him backward.

TORI: Preserves his balance by yielding to Uke's advance and push, simultaneously stepping and taking a standard grip in right *shizentai* as he retreats one step by *tsugi ashi* (left foot, right foot) in an attempt to break Uke's balance forward by pulling him horizontally.

2. UKE: Having failed in his attack, and being threatened with unbalance himself, preserves his balance by immediately attacking similarly again (right foot, left foot).

TORI: Preserves his balance again by yielding to Uke's attack, retreating as before (left foot, right foot), and again trying to unbalance Uke forward by pulling horizontally.

UKE: Having twice failed in his attacks and once again being threatened with unbalance, attempts to preserve his balance by immediately attacking similarly once again, but only succeeds in moving his right foot forward.



UKE: Unprepared for this unexpected change in the stepping-and-pulling pattern, is thrown forward in a big arc beyond Tori's left side. Executes *ukemi,* beating with his left arm, as his body comes to rest on the left side of his back, his head near Tori's left leg, the *kamiza* to his right, in an area outside the center zone, slightly off the longitudinal axis on the *kamiza* side, near Tori's salutation position.

3. TORI: Preserves his balance once again by yielding to Uke's pushing attack, but having twice failed to break Uke's balance, changes the pattern to foil Uke and takes the attack initiative. Instead of taking a normal-length step in *tsugi ashi,* takes his left foot a double-length step backward without really stepping, going directly onto his left knee, which is placed on a line straight back from his right heel; the toes of his left foot are flexed, with their sole surfaces resting on the mat, the heel pointing upward. His left leg is placed at 30–45 degrees to the axis of movement. Throws Uke by a strong, diagonally downward, straight snap pull of both hands, working simultaneously. Retains his left-hand grip on Uke's right sleeve; his right hand is placed nearby on that sleeve as Uke turns over and settles into *ukemi.* Exhibits *zanshin.*