

Having done far more than any call of duty, André Muller then transferred in October 1969 to the Office of the Director General in Bergedorf near Hamburg, Germany. Here he assumed the crucial task of leading the ESO Visiting Astronomers Programme, being responsible for the scheduling of the rapidly growing number of observing programmes with the expanding telescope park at La Silla. He continued to supervise the important, preparatory seeing studies for the 3.6-m telescope dome. From now on, André would also remain closely connected to the 1-m Schmidt telescope project. This instrument was under construction in Hamburg but had become somewhat delayed and now needed a firm hand to get ready as soon as possible for its main

task, the Southern Sky Surveys. Working in close contact with the ESO Telescope Project Division at CERN, he contributed to the development of the first computer-based telescope control system. Together with Hans-Emil Schuster, who had worked with André in Chile since 1964 and who was responsible for the operation of the Schmidt telescope, he spent much time at La Silla over the next years in order to tune this very delicate instrument to optimal performance. By the end of September 1983, André Muller left ESO for a well-deserved retirement in his native country. Unfortunately, André and Louise would only be together a few years, before she died in March 1987.

All of us who had the privilege to work with André Muller will remember him not only as an extremely competent astronomer/instrumentalist/manager in his many functions, but also as a delightful and friendly person. He was always ready to help and to provide guidance from his rich experience. Few possessed his intimate knowledge of the organisation and its colourful history.

Thank you André, for your kindness and your great services to ESO and all those young European astronomers who gained access to some of the best observational facilities in the world. We will never forget what you have done for astronomy!

Finnish Parliamentary Committee at ESO Headquarters

Claus Madsen (ESO)

On 15 March, members of the Education and Culture Committee of the Finnish Parliament paid a visit to the ESO Headquarters. The guests were welcomed by the Director General in her office. Following this were extensive briefings on the main activities of ESO by various ESO staff members. After the session, the deputies had a chance to visit the Science Archive and the Optics Laboratory, followed by a late lunch. Finland is the most recent member of ESO and there was a strong interest by the delegation members to learn more about the work and the projects carried out by our organisation. Amongst the many topics discussed were also the role of astronomy in science education and the SAMPO project, which is part of the initial Finnish contribution to ESO.

Dr. Ilkka Taipale, MP, asking a question to the ESO team. At the centre, Committee Chairperson Ms. Kaarina Dromberg, MP and Mr. Tuomo Hänninen, MP (right in the picture).



Photos: H. H. Heyer, ESO

Several Committee members showed considerable interest in Adaptive Optics.

