



ESO European Headquarters in Munich

The Council, at its meeting of December 2, 1975, took some decisions of far-reaching importance for the future of ESO.

The Council accepted the very generous offer of the Federal Republic of Germany of a site of 1.2 hectares and a building of a total floor space of 6,000 m² at Garching, near Munich, to house the European headquarters of the Organization. At this headquarters, all departments of ESO will be united, which now are scattered over Hamburg and Geneva.

To widen the contacts between institutes in the member countries and to promote their cooperation among each other and with ESO on the scientific and instrumental sectors and to secure the optimum functioning of the observatory on La Silla in Chile for the benefit of the astronomical community in the member countries, the Council authorized the Director-General to create a scientific-technical centre. This centre will also take steps towards the coordinated planning of large-scale instrumental developments and observing programmes with other large astronomical projects, in particular in the member states. Until completion of the new building at Garching, expected at the end of 1978, the centre will be located at CERN, Geneva, the host Organization of ESO's 3.6 m Telescope Project Division during the past five years.

Under application of the strictest economy, the Director-General was confident to realize all this within the contribution ceilings fixed by the Council at DM 32.5 million for the year 1976 and estimated at DM 32.5 million and 30 million for the years 1977 and 1978 respectively. The total international staff complement will be 125 in 1976, 122 in 1977, 120 in 1978, with 12 positions blocked in each year.

The chairmen of the various committees were all reappointed, as a result of which the following persons hold office:

Professor B. Strömgren, President of Council; Professor J.-F. Denisse, Vice-President of Council; Mr. M. Deloz, Chairman of the Finance Committee; Professor L. Biermann, Chairman of the Scientific Policy Committee; Professor G. Courtès, Chairman of the Instrumen-

tation Committee, and Dr. G. Wlérick, Chairman of the Observing Programmes Committee.

ASTRONOMY AT ESO

Supernovae in the Magellanic Clouds

The study of the Small and the Large Magellanic Clouds is a great privilege of the astronomers in the southern hemisphere. Their importance is mainly due to the small distance from us (50 and 63 kpc), which allows the astronomer to observe in them fine details and faint objects. In addition, the Clouds appear to be in an evo-