

of the total support needed. However, by assuming the role of a clearing house, ESO will be able to channel support from other sources.

The ESO Programme will be strictly based on scientific excellence. Applications from C&EE astronomers will be reviewed by the appropriate ESO Committees, acting in close contact with astronomers and institutes in the ESO member States.

A primary goal is to enable C&EE astronomers to continue to do good research while remaining at their home institutes, and also to induce young and promising scientists to stay in this field. For this reason, the ESO Programme comprises a variety of measures, in particular support for collaborative scientific programmes, including fellowships, participation in conferences, shorter-term visits by Western astronomers to C&EE institutes, as well as transfer of equipment and publications.

### VIDEO FROM THE ESO INFORMATION SERVICE

## The ESO Video Collection

is a collection of unedited video footage for broadcast use. It covers the main activities of ESO and shows La Silla, Paranal and Garching. Duration approximately 90 minutes.

Now available as a VHS tape with LTC timecode (EBU) in vision, as well as in the broadcast systems MII and Betacam-SP.

The gradual implementation and the detailed action plan will be worked out under the guidance of the new ESO Director General, Professor Riccardo Giacconi (see ESO Press Release 05/92), who takes up his duties at ESO on January 1, 1993. It is expected that this new ESO Programme will take effect immediately thereafter.

*From ESO Press Release 10/92  
(3 December 1992)*

More detailed information about this ESO Programme will become available in early 1993 and will be forwarded to astronomical institutes/observatories and individual astronomers in C&EE Countries, as far as they are known to ESO. In order to ensure the widest possible distribution, all interested parties are herewith invited to express their wish to receive this information by sending a short message with their exact postal address to the *ESO C&EE Programme* at the ESO Headquarters (address, etc. on the last page of this *Messenger* issue).

## ESA Astronaut Claude Nicollier Visits ESO



On December 7, 1992, Swiss Astronomer and Astronaut Claude Nicollier visited the ESO Headquarters in Garching. At a special colloquium in the main auditorium, he told the ESO staff about his many exciting experiences, on the ground and in particular during the recent flight of the space shuttle *Atlantis* which carried the *EURECA* platform to its orbit on July 30, 1992.

Dr. Nicollier began his career at the Geneva Observatory and is a long-time friend of our organization. He stayed several times as visiting astronomer at La Silla, before he moved closer to the stars. He arranged that an ESO flag was carried aloft on the *Atlantis* flight; together with a flight certificate this flag was handed over to the ESO Director General, Professor Harry van der Laan, immediately after the talk (see the photo). The Director General gratefully received this valuable gift which will be displayed on a prominent place in the ESO Headquarters building.

In his own words, Dr. Nicollier enjoyed again being at ESO and among fellow astronomers. We were particularly happy to learn that he had just been assigned to the shuttle mission, which will perform the crucial repair of the *Hubble Space Telescope* in late 1993. It is difficult to imagine a more important service which could be rendered by an astronaut to his "ground-bound" astronomers!

We wish Dr. Nicollier and his astronaut colleagues every success with this daunting endeavour. And we hope that he will again find time to visit ESO.

The Editor