

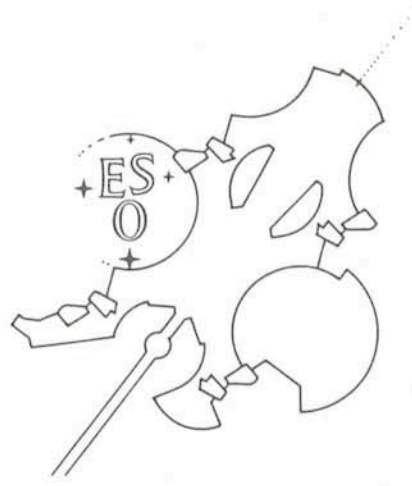
A Roof Over ESO Heads

On November 8th, 1979, another milestone in ESO history was passed. The new building for the future Headquarters in Garching, just north of Munich, was the scene of a happy celebration, on the occasion of the "setting up the roof", or "Richtfest" as it is called in Bavaria.

Most of the people who participated in the planning and construction were present, from the architects, the engineers and the construction workers to some ESO staff, headed by the Director General. A series of elegant speeches marked the occasion; the Max-Planck Institute that directs the construction was represented by the "Baudirektor", P. Löwenhauser; W. A. Nöbel spoke on behalf of the architectural firm, Fehling & Gogel; Professor L. Wolter thanked on behalf of ESO and finally the "Richtspruch" was effectively declaimed by H. Kühne, Zimmerpolier.

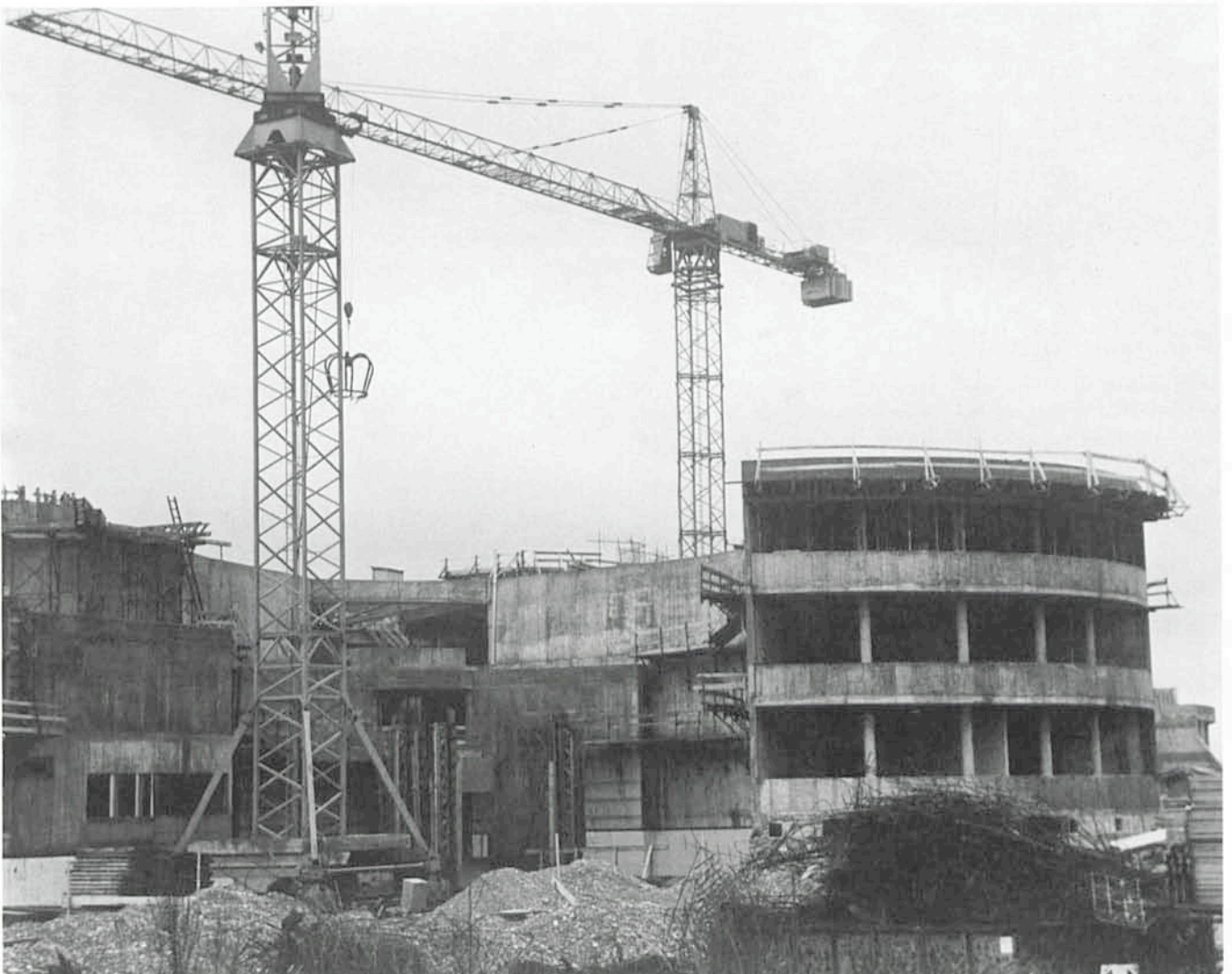
The building is presently being terminated on the outside and the last concrete will soon be in place. The installation of the inside equipment has started and it was felt that everything will be ready to receive the ESO staff by late summer 1980.

Some of these were privileged to make a thorough inspection of their new "professional home" during the

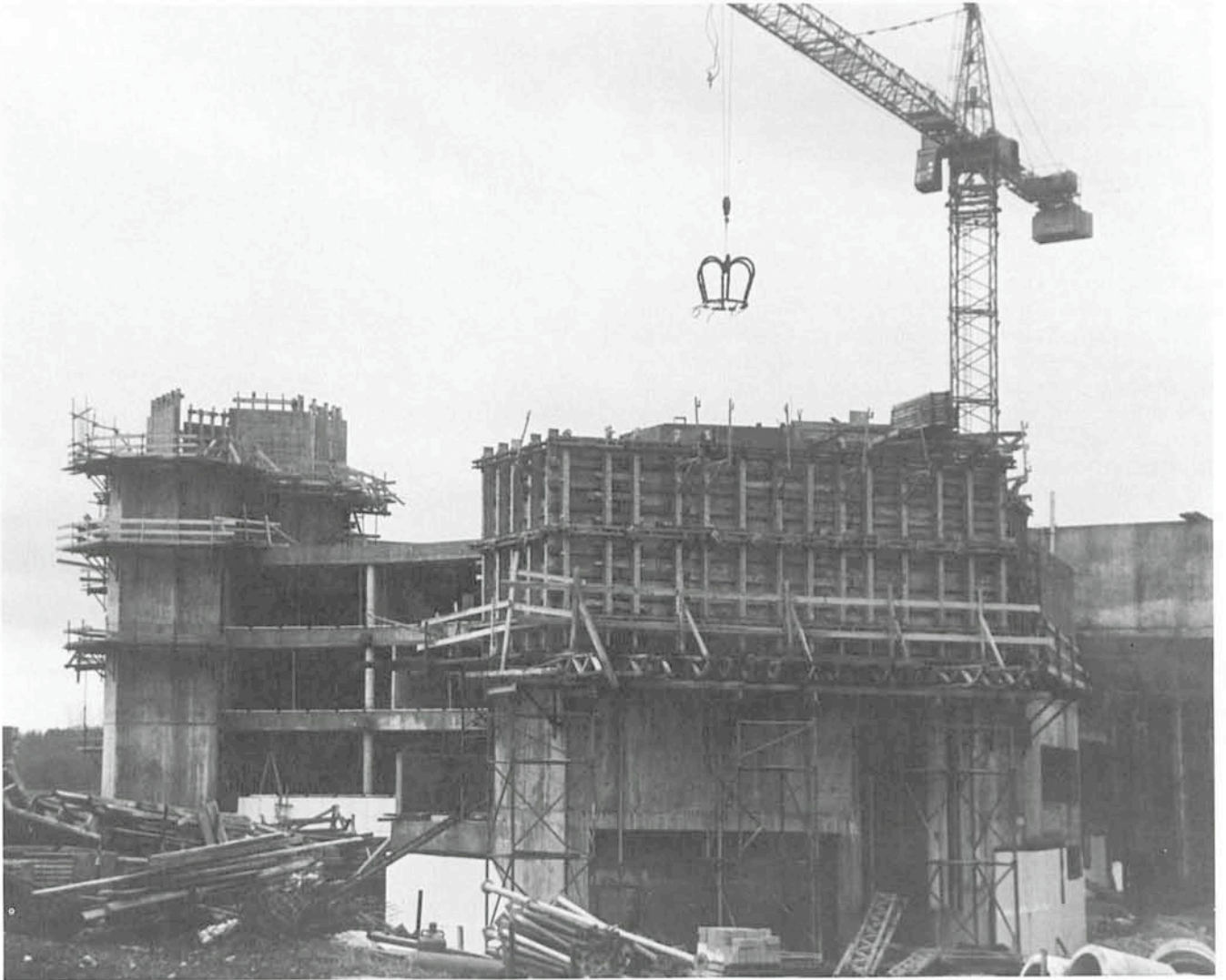


...hat Richtfest
...has setting up
its roof

morning of November 9. It was a great moment to see for the first time the actual building, rather than the drawings and architects' models and to walk around in the vast space. Great pains were taken to make the building functional in the sense that related services are close to each other. Nevertheless, the architects have also produced an



The entrance to the ESO Headquarters, on 8.11.1979.



The north area that will later house the ESO Administration and part of the Scientific Group.

impressive and artistically very interesting complex. The last speaker expressed the views of many in his humorous way when he spoke of the "runde, rechteckige, ovale, gekrümmte, vieleckige, versprungene, achteckige, verschobene, 22.5-gradige, trapezförmige und manchmal auch gerade Bauwerk"!

The building was inspected by the ESO Council in late November, on the occasion of the Council meeting in Munich.

Some photographic impressions may be seen on these pages.



At the entrance to the construction site. ►