

Messieurs, Collègues!

Après le geste symbolique et très émouvant de Monseigneur l'Archevêque de La Serena, j'ai le devoir un peu ingrat de vous ramener du ciel vers la terre.

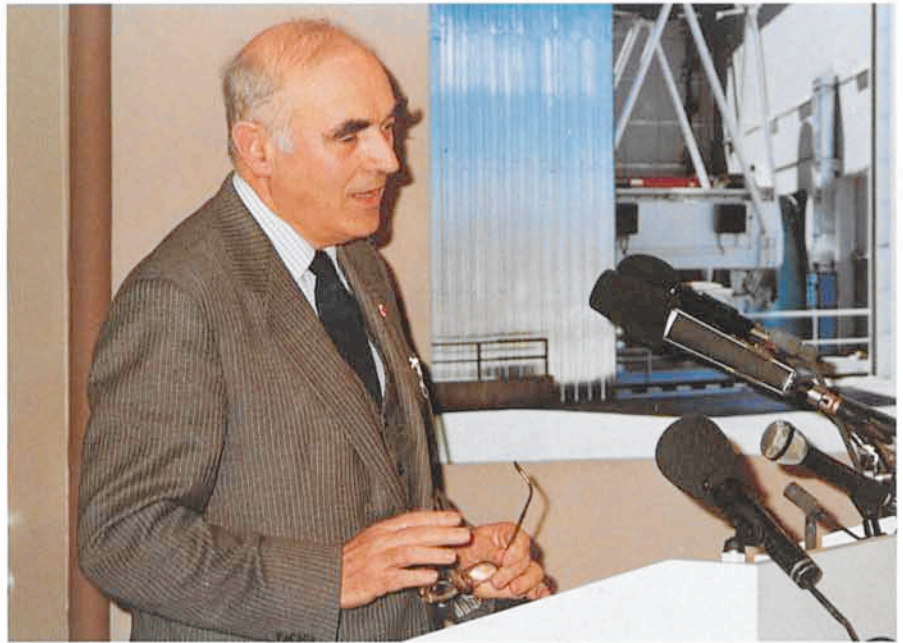
I would first underline the major interests of European associations, of European organizations like ESO. ESO is not the first one, it's not the biggest one, but it is one of the most interesting ones, of the most fruitful ones. Now being an astronomer in Europe, it is a must to cooperate with ESO, as it is a must for particle physicists to cooperate with CERN, as it is a must for a space scientist to cooperate with ESA. We needed some organizations in Europe, we now have this and we are very happy to see how efficient they are.

A second point concerning ESO is that it is a very big centre for studying instrumentation and not only instrumentation for telescopes. All what you have done here in the frame of ESO is indeed very fruitful, very useful for astronomers, but there are also many technological spin-offs, useful in many fields of physics and mechanics. I think that also for Europe this is really of great value.

Another point I wanted to say is that here at ESO there is a place where people meet to discuss their plans, their hopes and their needs for the coming years. We need such places in Europe within the big fields of science, places where people can meet informally, discussing, asking for something – asking from time to time a bit too much – but it's always interesting to have the measure of the maximum. I can assure you and I'm sure that our colleagues here are of the same spirit, that on the side of the governments we are really doing all the best we can to improve the situation of our scientists. Well, it isn't so bad in our countries, in Europe!

What we did achieve, for example in astronomy, is a model we can follow in other fields in which we have no such cooperation yet. For instance, what do you think about the possibility to have such a cooperation and coordination in oceanography? We have very great ambitions in our countries in Europe. There have already been very important national achievements in oceanography, but I think we could make more if we had something like ESO in order to discuss plans and to see in which directions we should move within this very important field of activity.

I will not be too long, but I would like to make a last remark: Pushing a button, our colleagues have shown that it is very



easy to control from here something which is almost at the antipodes. But of course it is easy. Is it not easy to control a satellite which is turning around Venus or going to the very end of our planetary system? The geography now is not at all what it was 20 or 40 years ago. When we are achieving some projects for science we can now think in more global terms – and not only European ones. More and more we will go in this direction, for instance if we think about meteorology or environmental studies. More and more we must have this in mind and more and more we can also realize this.

In conclusion, je voudrais vous souhaiter à tous, à l'ESO, à tous les collaborateurs de l'ESO le meilleur succès, un superbe résultat pour ce télescope qui vient d'être béni et inauguré et aussi une très belle réussite pour la prochaine étape, le Très Grand Télescope. Merci.

Editors note: The speeches by Prof. van der Laan, Dr. Wilson, Prof. Tarenghi, Prof. Lindblad, Mr. Hofstadt and Prof. Ruberti have been reprinted from written texts received. The texts by Ambassador Keusch, Dr. Riesenhuber, Monsignor Cox and Prof. Curien are slightly edited transcriptions of the recorded speeches.

First Announcement
ESO/EIPC Workshop on SN 1987 A
and other Supernovae
17–22 September 1990

A joint ESO/EIPC workshop on SN 1987A and other supernovae will be held from 17 to 22 September, 1990, at the Elba International Physics Centre, Marciana Marina, Isola d'Elba, Italy.

Topics of the workshop:

- SN 1987 A compared to other supernovae
- X-rays, UV, optical, IR and radio observations
- Models and synthetic spectra
- Explosive mechanisms and nucleosynthesis
- Molecule and dust formation
- Pulsars and late-time energy deposition

Organizing Committee:

I.J. Danziger (ESO), F. Ferrini (Pisa), W. Hillebrandt (MPI Garching), L. Lucy (ESO).

For further information please contact:

John Danziger, European Southern Observatory, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2, D-8046 Garching, Fed. Rep. Germany