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The SEST submillimeter radio telescope at the European Southern Observatory in Chile reflects the promise of science in Latin America as democracy and economic stability take hold. Chile's astronomers are doing competitive research on SEST and other instruments built by European and North American institutions, and they plan to expand their activities elsewhere in the region, other scientific communities have started with fewer advantages but are creating equally bright spots of achievement, as discussed on page 807 in a special section on Science in Latin America. [Photo: Roger Reesmeyer-Starlight]