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TEN DECISIONS THAT COULD SHAKE THE WORLD

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SETI involves far more than science. Contact with an ETI will force policy-makers to make some decisions, and will present opportunities for them to make others. The choices they make could have a profound impact on the human future. In one case, the decision is being made de facto now; in some other cases, decisions also could be made in advance of contact.

This paper describes ten categories of decisions and briefly discusses the implications of alternate choices. The ten categories are: (1) increasing the electromagnetic signature of the Earth; (2) information release and access to the signal or to the site; (3) managing political reactions; (4) who speaks for the Earth; (5) what should we say; (6) who decides; (7) how do we conduct relations; (8) increasing intelligence collection; (9) human expansion; (10) adopting an extraterrestrial strategy for the human species.