Any advanced organizational order of an intelligent ETI must meet the following three conditions: FIRST, it must have eliminated inter-species violence. SECOND, it must have coped successfully with all destabilizing factors, as unbridled population growth, wasteful use of natural resources, development gaps, destruction of the environment and other social ills – the causes of political turmoil. THIRD, it must have a global authority, invested with supreme powers, capable of enforcing universal peace and order, global law, sustainable growth, etc. These are *sine qua non* conditions for survival and peaceful expansion in space.

Mankind is rapidly approaching a historic watershed. Either it decides to abandon the increasingly obsolete nation state and establishes a genuine supranational order, capable of safeguarding peace and stability, or it may invite nuclear disaster and economic collapse. This watershed will be reached around 2050, when there will be 4 or 5 superpowers, all – if the present trend continues – armed to the teeth. Armageddon will not come in 1999/2000 as Nostradamus predicted, but it may well come by the second half of the next century.

Contact with an advanced ETI as described above, may help to convince mankind that it has outgrown its violent stage of development and must choose the former alternative. Hopefully, SETI is successful before unreason plunges the world into a new dark age.