

INST 154
Apollo at 50
Discussion Questions
Session 4: The Decision to Go to the Moon

The commitment to action is one important aspect of this multi-faceted issue. That's our focus for this week's discussion. Please discuss the following questions.

1. When President Kennedy asked Vice president Johnson for advice on national goals in space, was he really asking for advice or was he really just asking Johnson to develop support for a decision that he had already made? How do you know?
2. Choose one major decision by some government (e.g., the US decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change, or the Chinese decision to construct facilities on disputed islands in the South China Sea, or Maryland's decision to limit tuition increases) and use a bureaucratic politics perspective to explain that decision.
3. John Logsdon suggested four circumstances that together make it possible for nations to make a "big decision." Pick some other "big decision" from American history (e.g., the American Revolution, the Louisiana Purchase, the creation of the Social Security, or the decision to invade Iraq) and explain whether each of Logsdon's circumstances existed when that decision was made.