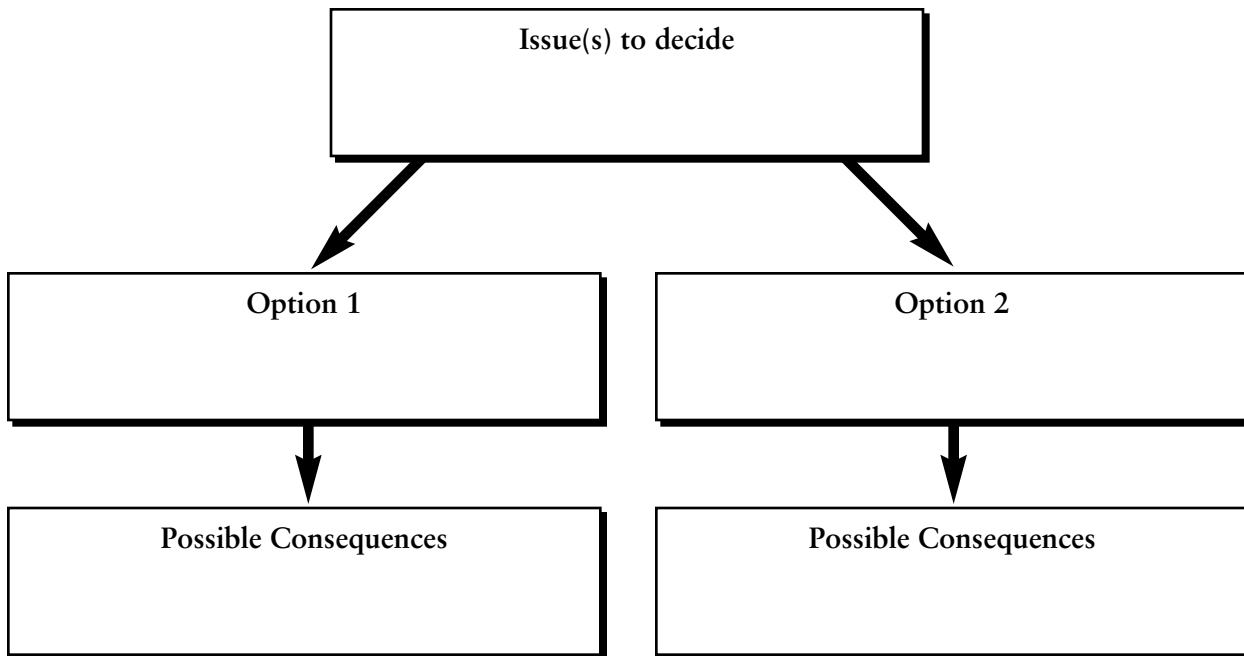


## Making Decisions

As the leading world power, the United States has often been asked to send troops or assistance to end conflicts in other parts of the world. Some recent conflicts have occurred in Kosovo, in Europe; East Timor, in Asia; and Sierra Leone, in Africa. The United States does not have enough troops to send to all the world's troubled areas, nor is it always likely that a U.S. presence will be helpful in putting a temporary or permanent end to a conflict. The President and his advisors have to consider each request individually and make a decision in each case. The decision-making process involves considering U.S. vital interests, humanitarian concerns, the risk to armed forces and civilians, and many other concerns. Use library or Internet resources to learn more about the conflict in Kosovo, East Timor, or Sierra Leone. Then draw up a plan showing how a decision was made to get involved or stay out of a conflict.

A decision-making tree diagram, such as the one below, can be used to help you understand some of the steps in making a decision.



1. Identify two possible actions and the possible consequences of each.
2. Explain what kind of information was needed.
3. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons given for the decision that was made.