

Box 12.1 TENSIONS MOUNT: A FUTURE SCENARIO

With momentum increasingly on their side, Colombian military commanders and their US advisors decide to launch a combined major offensive against one of the FARC's most important military fronts. After six months of intense planning, a coordinated attack against the FARC's Third Front begins, and most major combat operations are concluded within two weeks. The attack is heralded as a major success: the Third Front's military commander is killed, at least a thousand FARC insurgents are killed or captured, and two members of the FARC's seven-member political Secretariat are captured. Experts are quoted in the