

Box 12.1 *(Continued)*

press saying the attack might be a tipping point presaging the final demise of the insurgency.

The captured Secretariat members had been indicted previously by the US attorney in Miami on cocaine importation conspiracy charges. Four weeks after the military operation, the Colombian government agrees to extradite both Secretariat members to Miami to face prosecution in US courts.

In Colombia, the remaining members of the Secretariat announce that their movement has suffered major losses but will regroup and live to fight another day “even more deeply committed to the revolutionary struggle.” Their public statements are particularly critical of the role played by US military forces in supporting the operation. The FARC posting on the Internet states, “If the United States is determined to bring the fight to us, then we have no choice but to bring it to them. There is a price that all American soldiers—and even their friends and families—now must pay for intervening in the internal affairs of Colombia.”

US intelligence learns that in internal deliberations, the FARC leadership is concerned that the attacks are seriously eroding morale within the movement. Moreover, US counterdrug initiatives aimed at the FARC and Colombia are doing serious damage to their drug production, export, and distribution infrastructure. They are overheard saying, “If they go after our infrastructure, then we must go after theirs.” Intelligence analysts interpret this and other statements as indicative of the FARC’s intent to launch a spectacular, retaliatory attack against US persons and places within the borders of the United States.