

On January 3rd, the Principality of Zeon launched a surprise attack on the Earth Federation-controlled colonies in space. The immediate impact of the conflict was devastating, with roughly half of humanity perishing. In these attacks Zeon used mobile suits, particularly the MS-06 Zaku II, which is rumored to have been developed with assistance from the PLANT's design bureaus. In fact, the PLANTs were not targeted by Zeon's attacks. The Earth Federation had highly limited mobile suit forces, consisting of the Special Mobile Suit unit, secretly the Organization of the Zodiac, equipped with an early version of the OZ-06MS Leo. This included Zechs Merquise and Lucrezia Noin.

Following the Battle of Loum, the Earth Federation was ready to sign a peace treaty. However, General Revil made a speech stating that "Zeon is exhausted!" Therefore, the Antarctic Treaty did not conclude the war, but rather prohibited the use of weapons of mass destruction amongst other things. Subsequently, Zeon began an invasion of Earth. This led to a period where the Earth Federation steadily lost ground. This included losing many Leo production lines. This was a factor in Project V which was to create advanced mobile weapons.

In September, Char Aznable discovered Project V at Side 7. Despite the colony being devastated, the Pegasus-class White Base escaped with three mobile suits. Zeon would carry out a number of failed attempts to destroy the White Base, leading up to the end of the war. However, several deaths that occurred in the original One Year War were averted in this timeline, including Garma Zabi, Ramba Ral, Ryu Jose, Slugger Law and Lalah Sune. At the final battle at the end of the war, the White Base would be destroyed, along with a large part of both fleets. The battle was interrupted by the arrival of ASS-1, a massive alien vessel. Furthermore, the death of Degwin Sodo Zabi and escape of Ghiren Zabi would lead to the formation of multiple factions, including the Legitimate Zeon, Neo Zeon and Reborn Zeon.

The Legitimate Zeon and Reborn Zeon agreed to a ceasefire with the Earth Federation. Furthermore, the two Zeon Factions would agree to an arrangement where they would share power, preserving the Principality of Zeon. The White Base crew was assigned to the White Base Jr., renamed White Base II and sent to Japan to assist Mazinger Z and the Getter Team with their struggles.