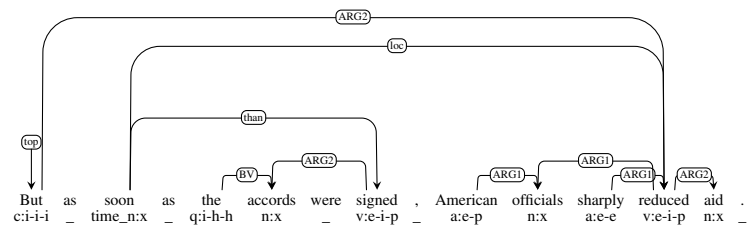
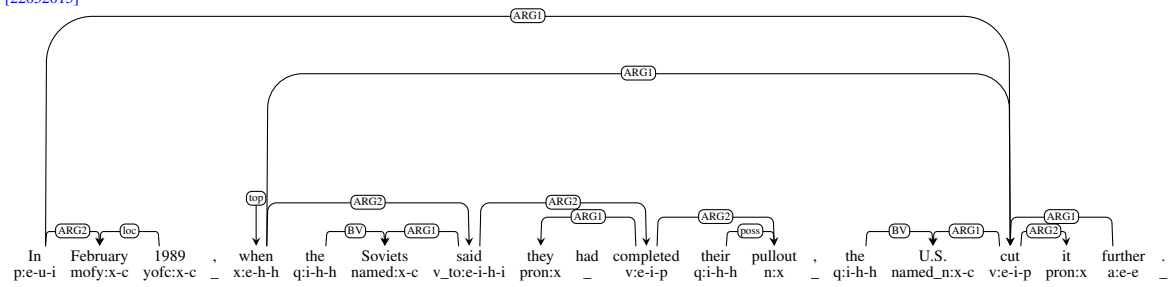


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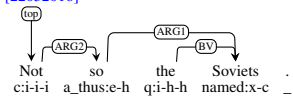




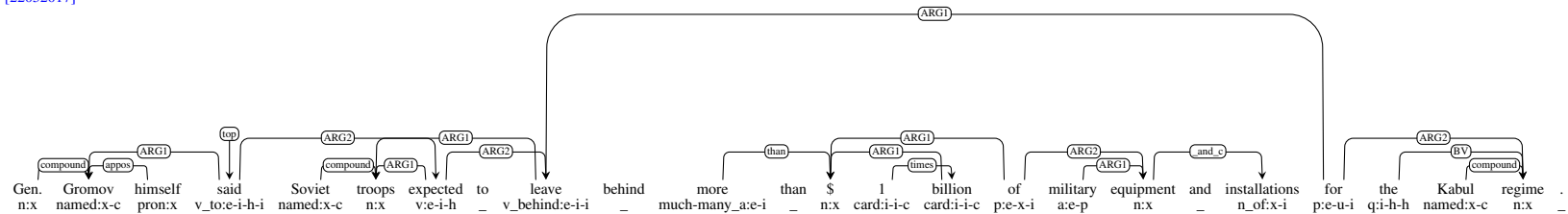
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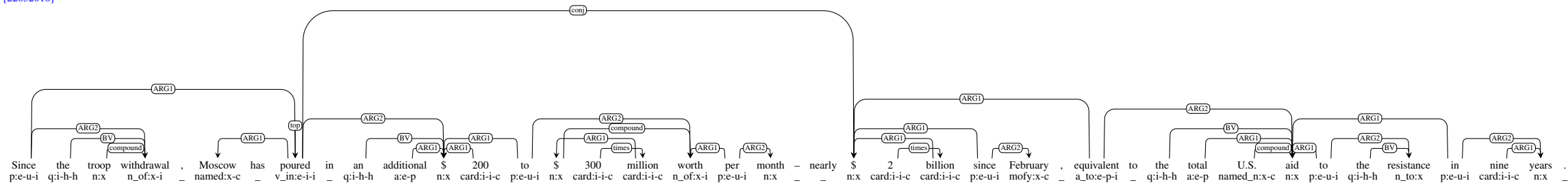
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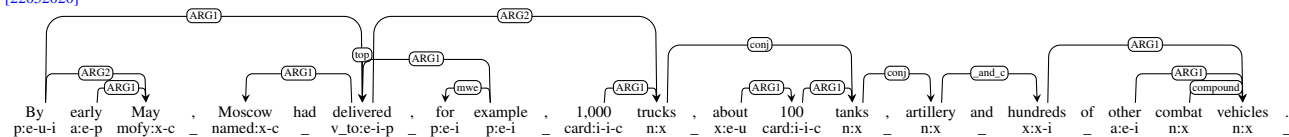
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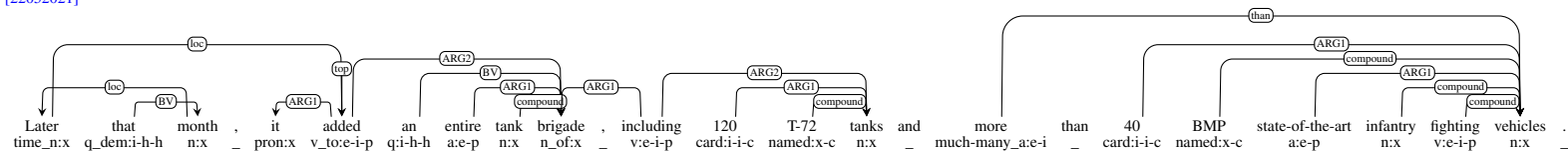
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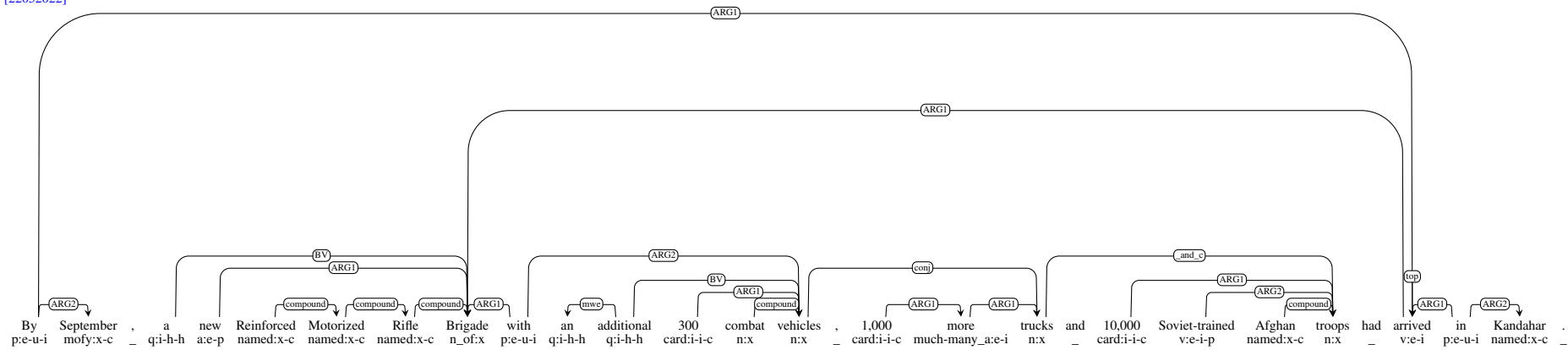
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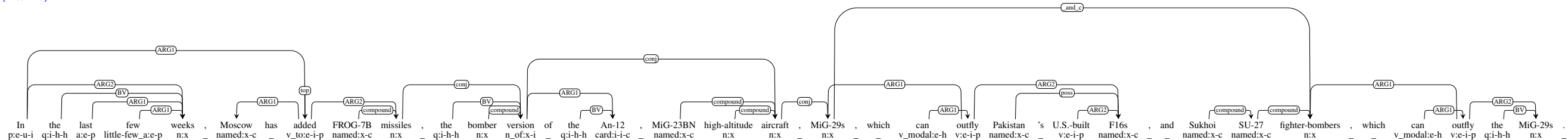
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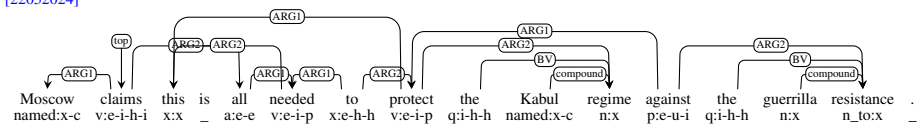
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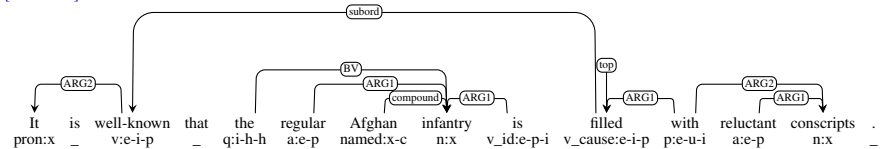
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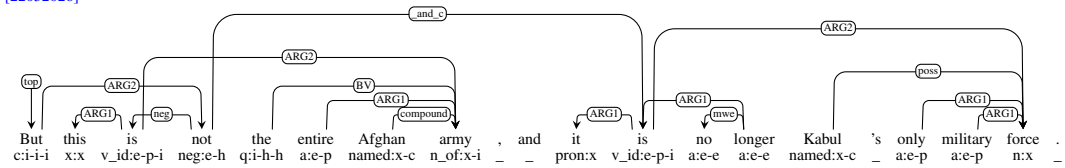
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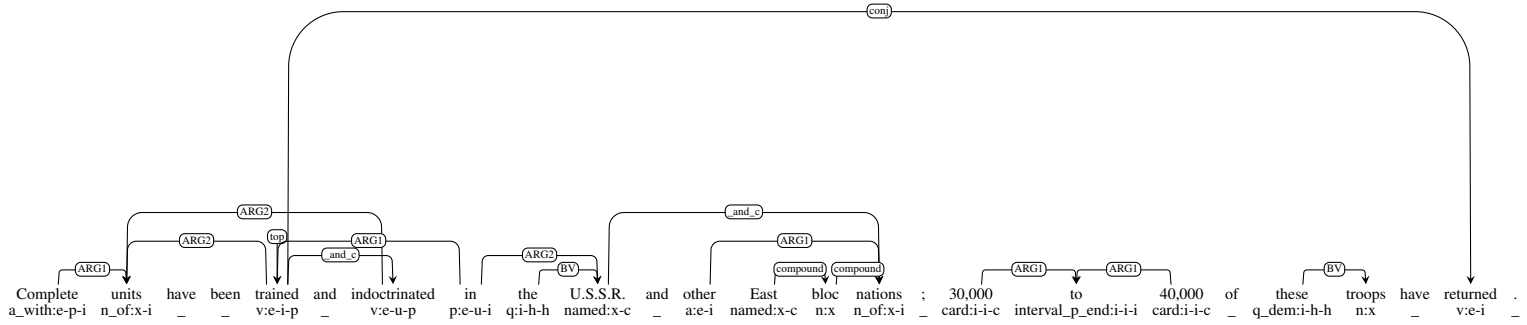
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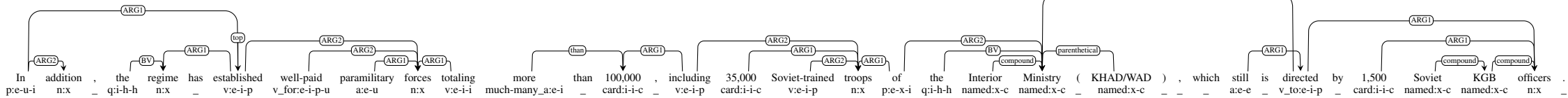
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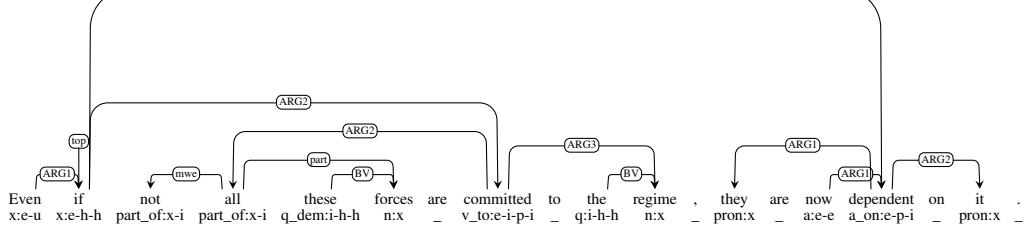
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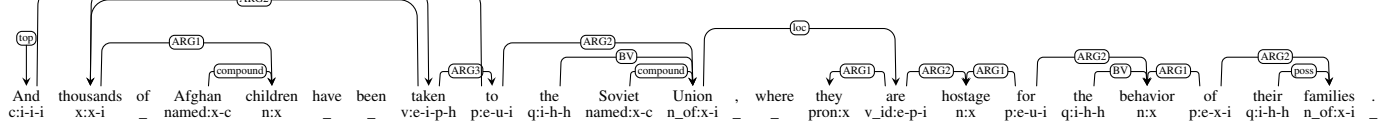
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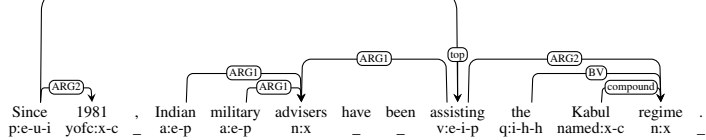
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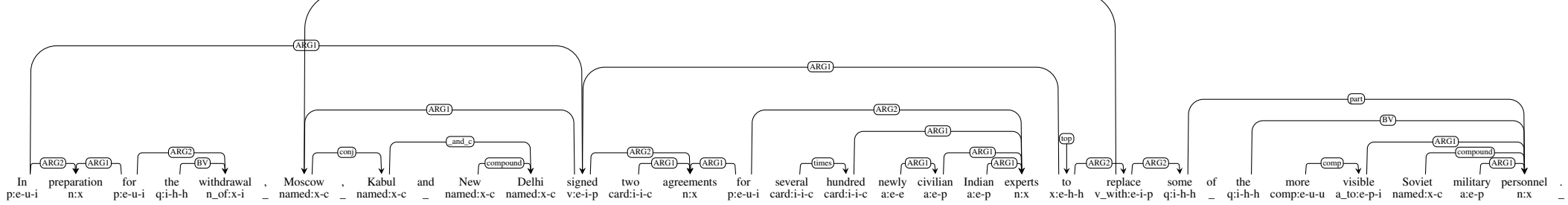
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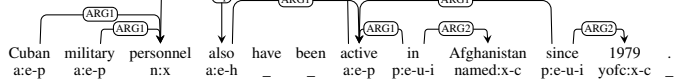
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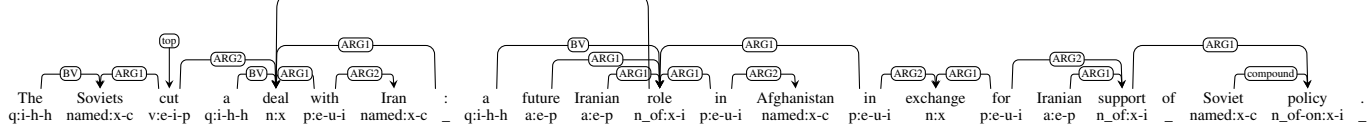
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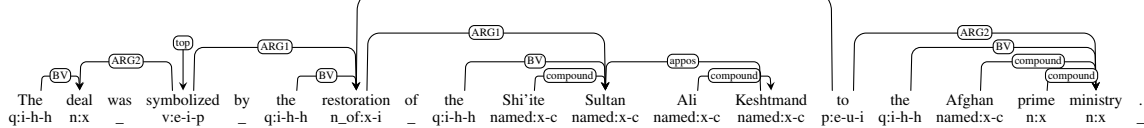
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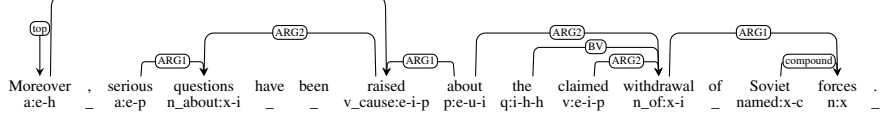
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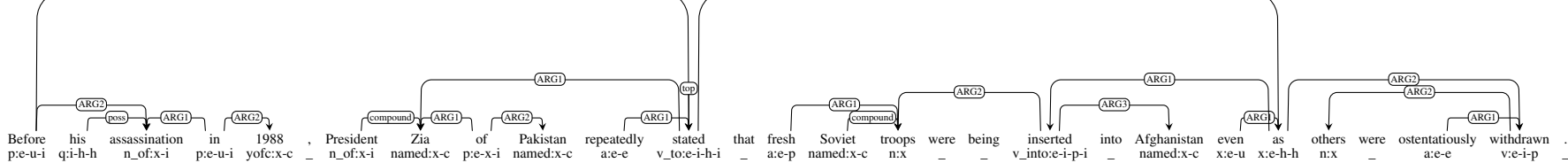
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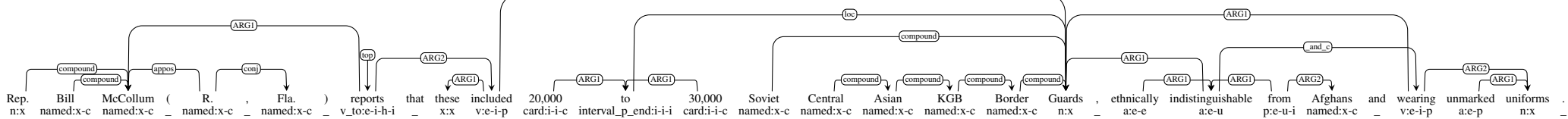
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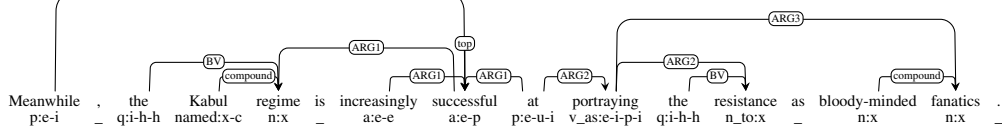
[22052037]



[22052038]



[22052039]



[22052040]

In this they are aided by years of American , European , Pakistani and Saudi support for the most extreme factions – radical Islamic fanatics with leaders whose policies are anathema to the Afghan public .

[22052041]

This heavy outside support for the worst has undermined better , moderate leaders .

[22052042]

In autumn last year , for example , the regime garrison at Kandahar was prepared to surrender the city to resistance moderates .

[22052044]

The deal fell through , and Kandahar remains a major regime base .

[22052045]

The resistance lacks not only air power , armor and expertise but often such essentials as maps , mine detectors , or even winter gloves .

[22052046]

Experienced resistance commanders wanted to use guerrilla action and siege tactics to wear down the regime .

[22052047]

Instead , they were pressured by Pakistan 's ISI , the channel for their support , into attacking Jalalabad .

[22052048]

They took more than 25 % casualties : journalists report that they faced minefields without mine detectors .

[22052049]

The wonder is not that the resistance has failed to topple the Kabul regime , but that it continues to exist and fight at all .

[22052051]

For months the resistance has been defenseless against air attack .

[22052052]

Thus far there is no indication that they have been re-supplied with Stingers or other anti-aircraft weapons .

[22052053]

Indeed , U.S. officials have indicated to the press that the continuation of aid depends on what success the weakened resistance achieves by the end of this year .

[22052054]

Moscow and Kabul must have found that information useful .

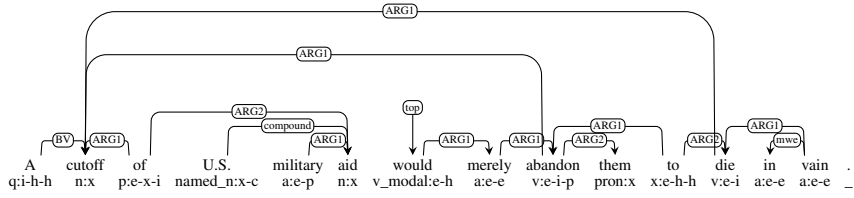
[22052055]

For a decade U.S. policy has been incoherent , based on miscalculation and the defense of bureaucratic and political turf .

[22052056]

No settlement negotiated by others can force the Afghan people to give up their struggle .

[22052057]



[22052058]

