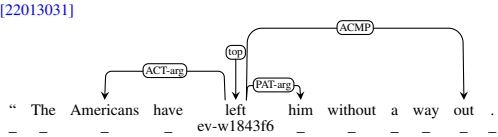
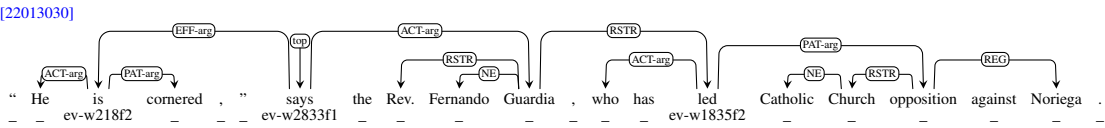
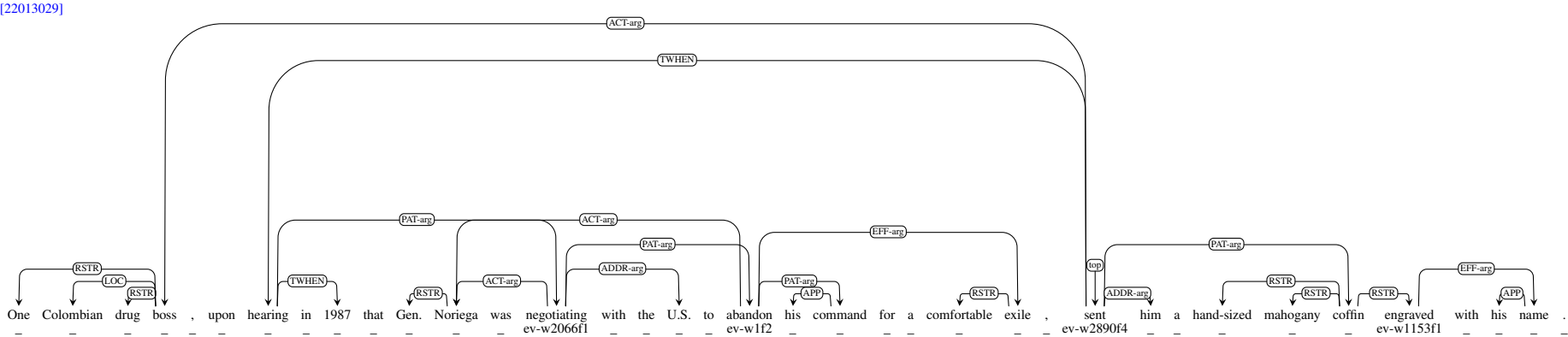
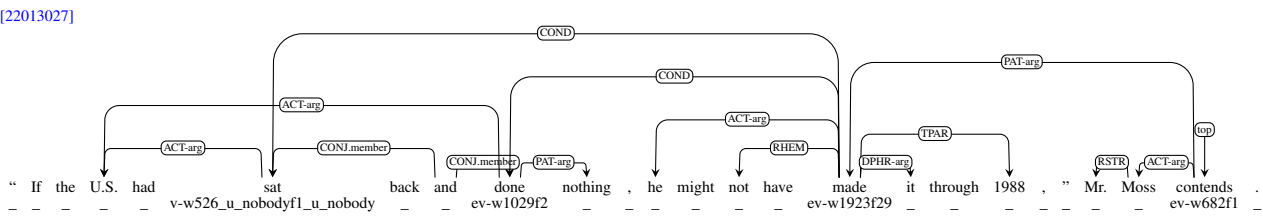
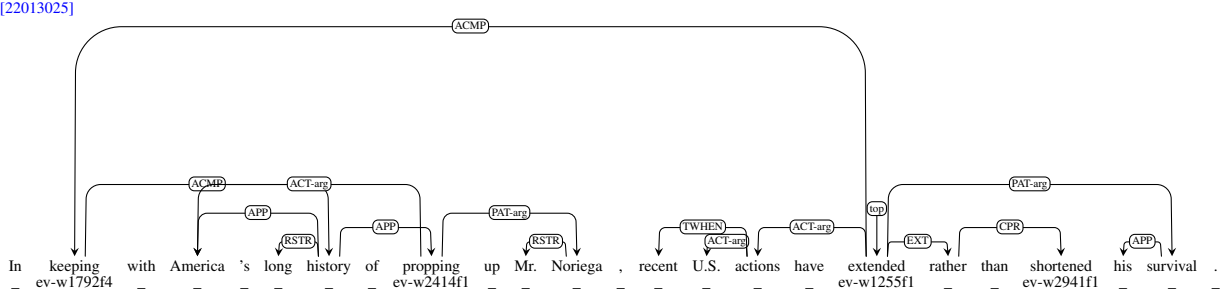
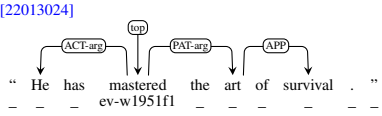
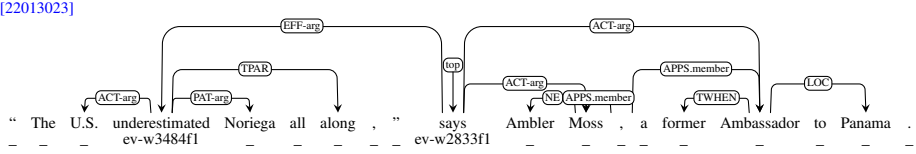
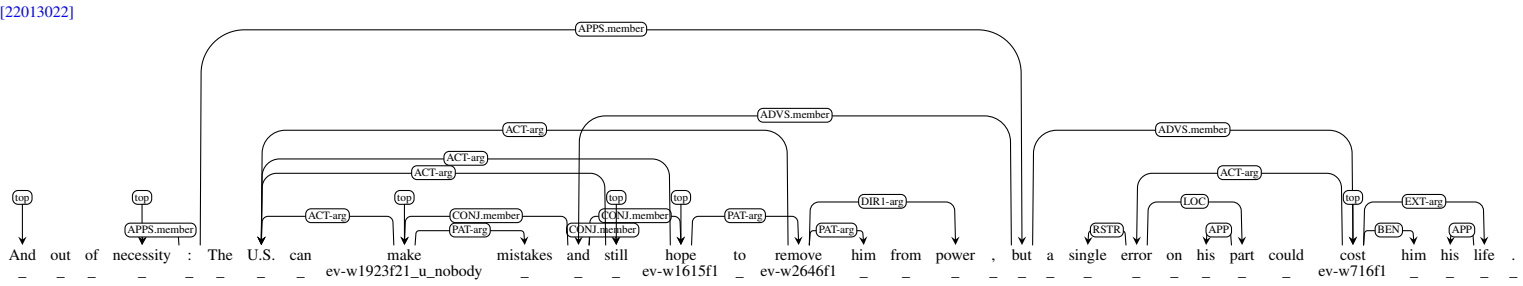
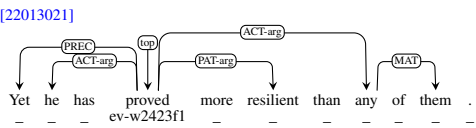
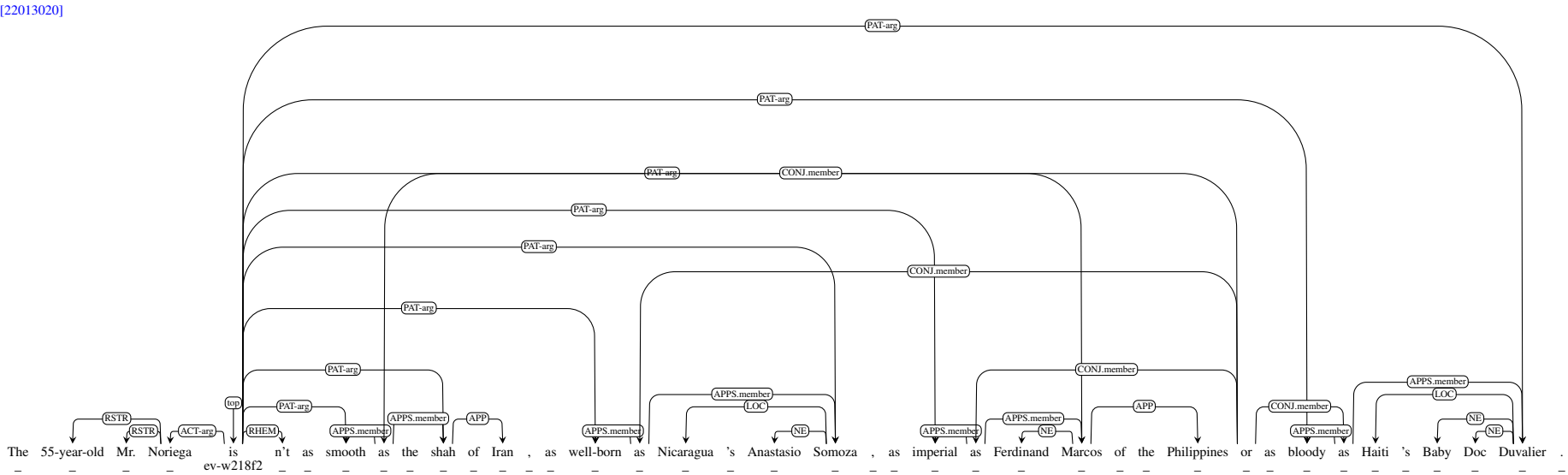
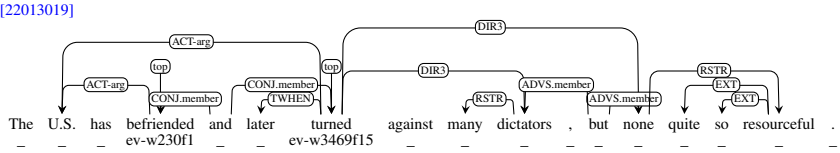
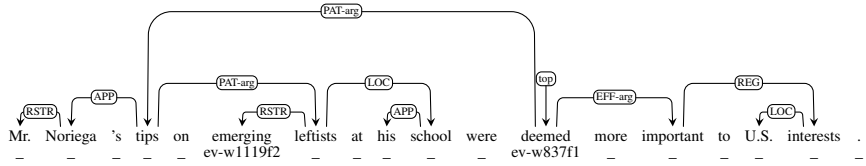
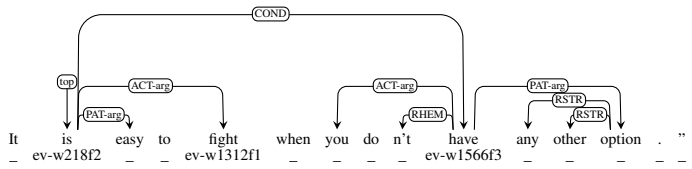


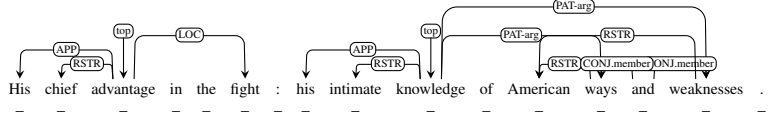
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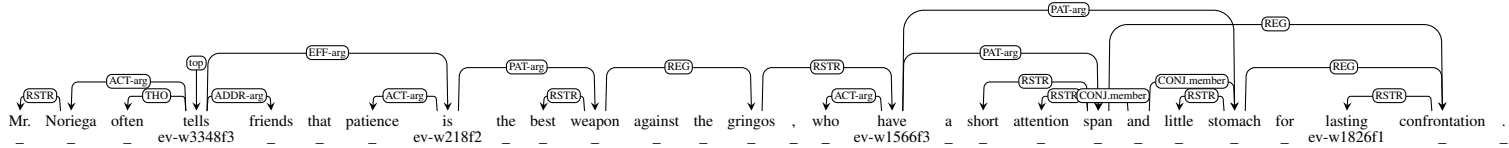




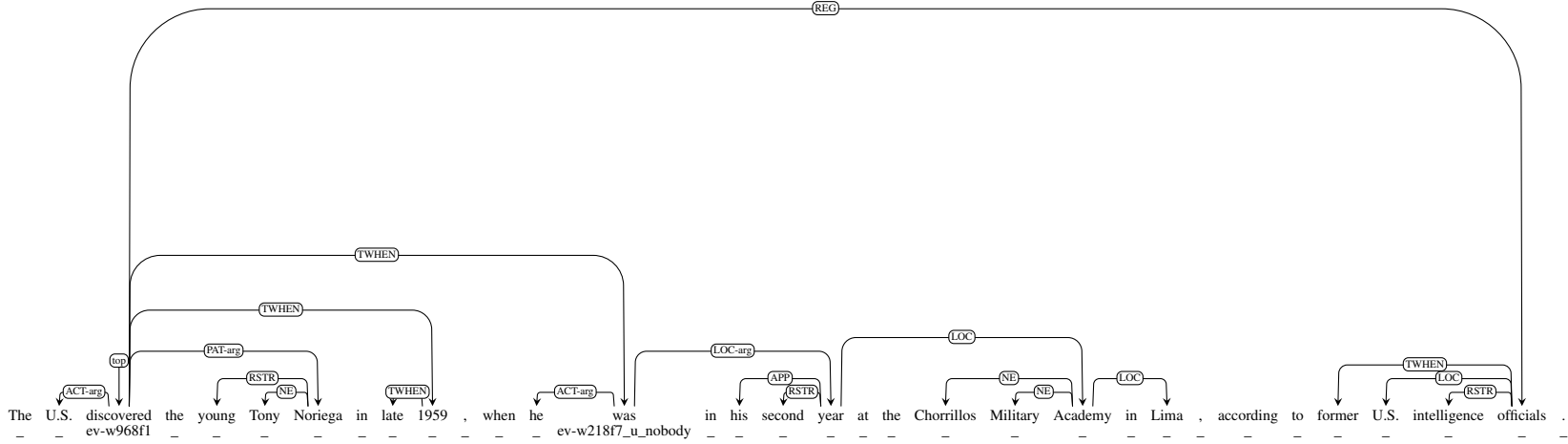
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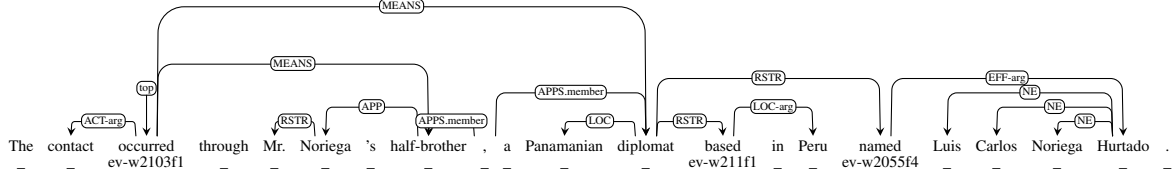
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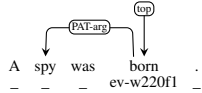
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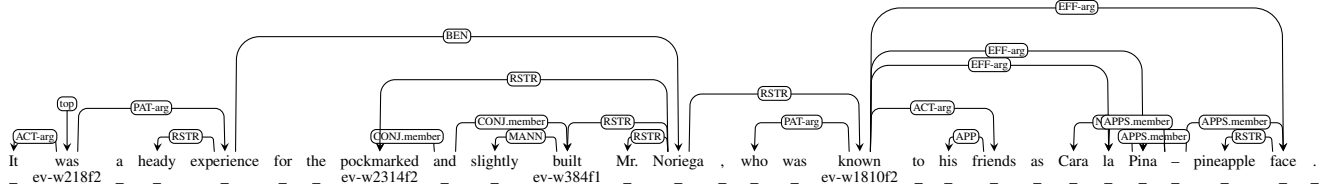
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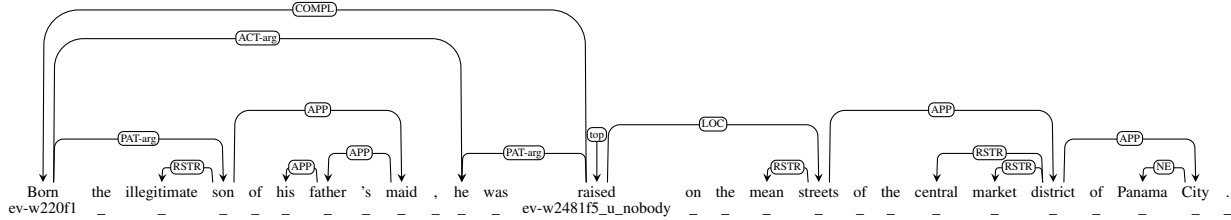
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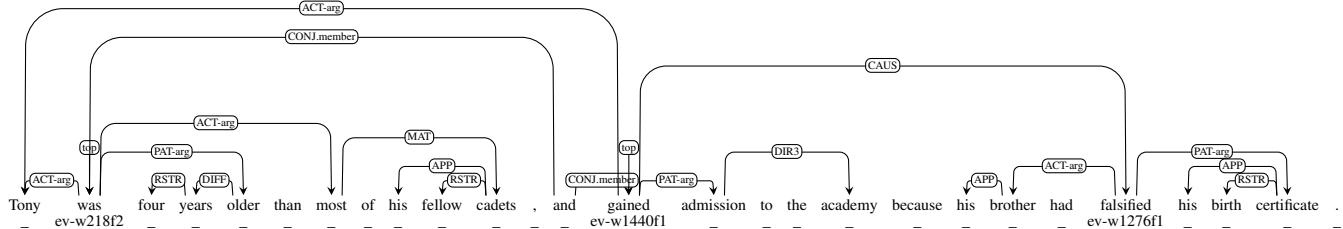
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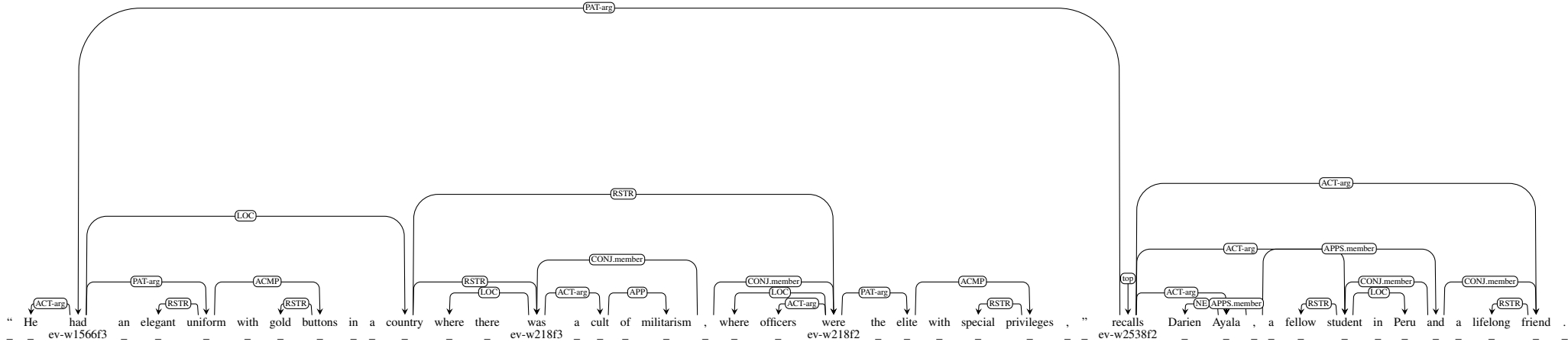
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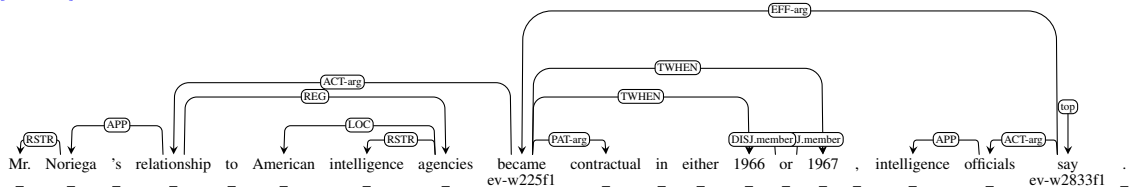
[22013041]



[22013044]



[22013045]



[22013046]

His commanding officer at the Chiriqui Province garrison , Major Omar Torrijos , gave him an intriguing assignment : Mr. Noriega would organize the province 's first intelligence service .

[22013048]

United Fruit was one of the two largest contributors to Panama 's national income .

[22013049]

Satisfying its interests was a priority for any Panamanian leader .

[22013050]

Mr. Noriega 's initial retainer was only \$ 50 to \$ 100 a month , plus occasional gifts of liquor or groceries from the American PX , a former intelligence official says .

[22013052]

" He did it very well . " recalls Boris Martinez , a former Panamanian colonel who managed Mr. Noriega and his operation .

[22013053]

" He started building the files that helped him gain power . "

[22013054]

A National Guard job assumed by Capt. Noriega in 1964 -- as chief of the transit police in David City , capital of the Chiriqui Province -- was tailor-made for an aspiring super-spy .

[22013055]

By pressuring taxi and bus drivers who needed licenses , he gained a ready cache of information .

[22013056]

He knew which local luminaries had been caught driving drunk , which had been found with their mistresses .

[22013058]

Mr. Noriega had learned that a local union leader was sleeping with the wife of his deputy .

[22013059]

So he splashed the information on handbills that he distributed throughout the banana-exporting city of Puerto Armuelles , which was ruled by United Fruit Co .

[22013061]

" It was like a play on Broadway . " recalls Mr. Martinez .

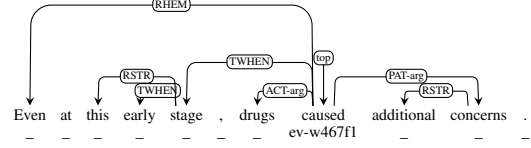
[22013062]

" Noriega managed the whole thing .

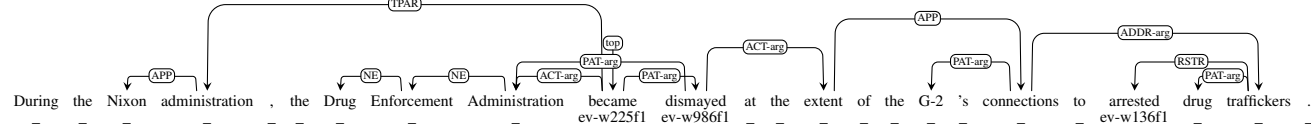
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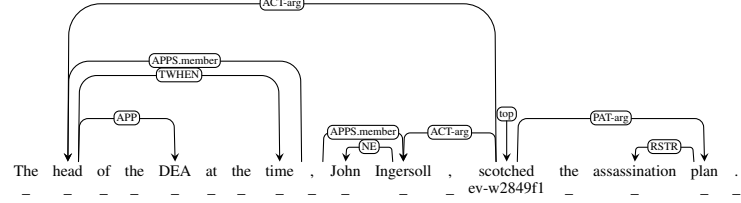
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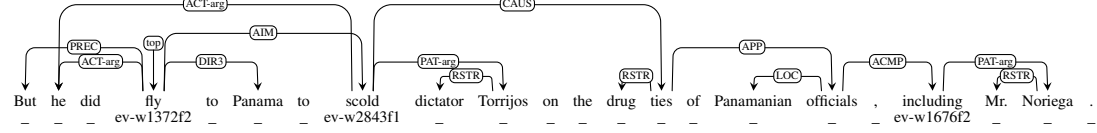
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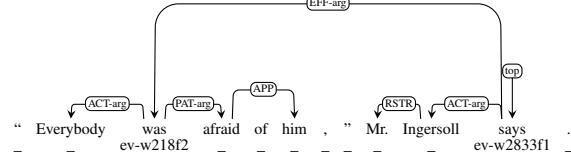
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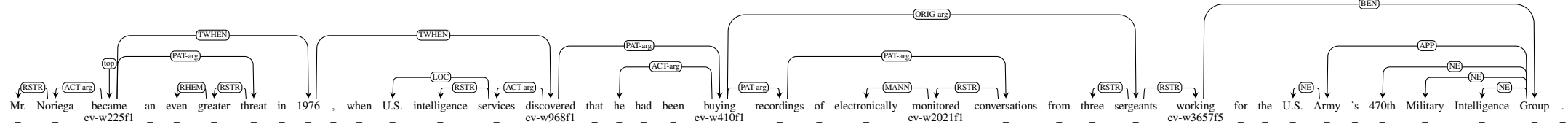
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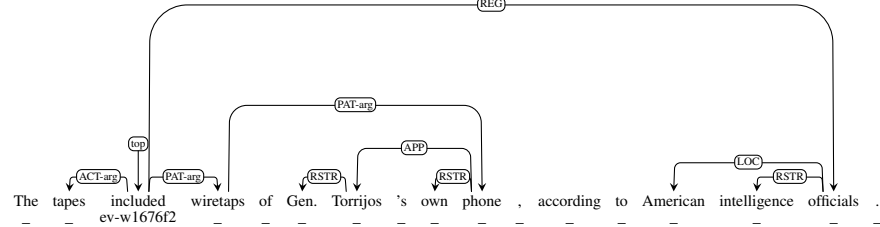
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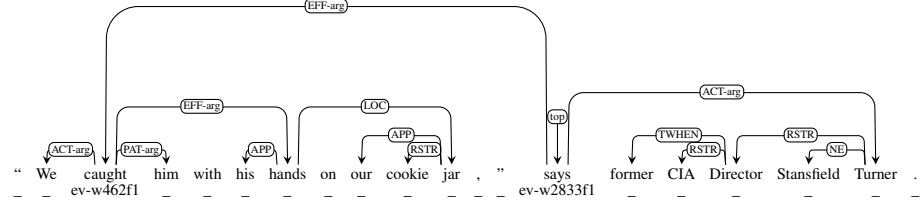
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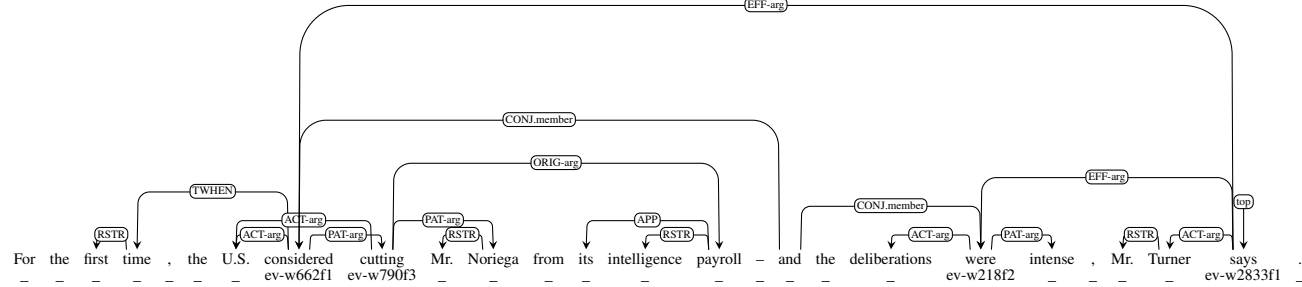
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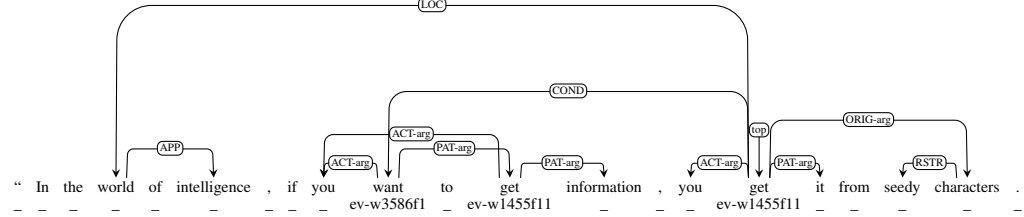
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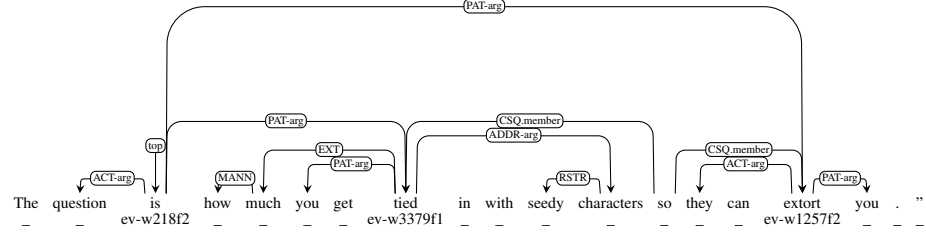
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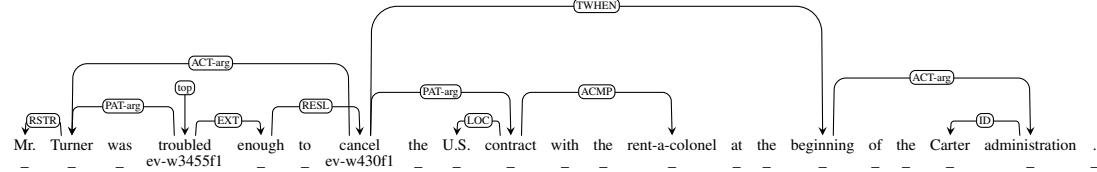
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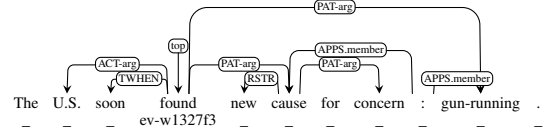
[22013091]



[22013093]



[22013094]



[22013095]

Prosecutors in Southern Florida indicted five Panamanians on charges of illegally running arms to Sandinista rebels trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government of Mr. Somoza .

[22013096]

They included one of Mr. Noriega 's closest friends and business partners , Carlos Wittgreen .

[22013097]

And the investigators were quickly closing in on Mr. Noriega himself .

[22013098]

At the time , though , in 1979 , the U.S. was once again flirting with its longtime Latin American spy .

[22013099]

Mr. Noriega made plans to fly to Washington for a meeting with his counterpart at the Pentagon .

[22013100]

Dade County and federal authorities , learning that he intended to fly through Miami , made plans to arrest him on the gun-running charges as soon as he hit U.S. soil .

[22013101]

It was a Friday in June .

[22013102]

The Pentagon foiled the plan .

[22013104]

On Monday , U.S. officials received a routine , unclassified message from the military group commander in Panama .

[22013105]

“ Due to health reasons , Lt. Col. Noriega has elected to postpone his visit to Washington , ” it read .

[22013106]

Prosecutors in Miami received yet another setback .

[22013107]

Their original indictment against Mr. Wittgreen , the friend of Mr. Noriega , and the other four was dismissed on a technicality .

[22013108]

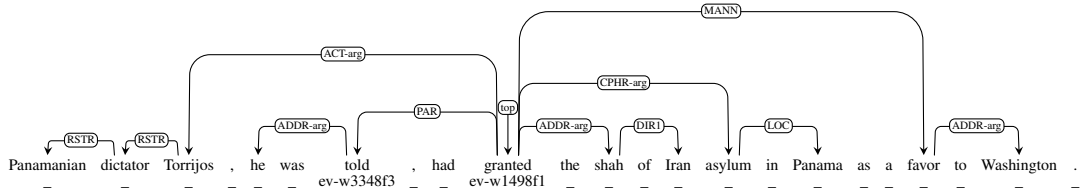
But now , along with v-w484\_u\_nobody1\_u\_nobody , they intended to charge Mr. Noriega himself , on allegations that he was involved in the illegal trading of some \$ 2 million in arms .

[22013109]

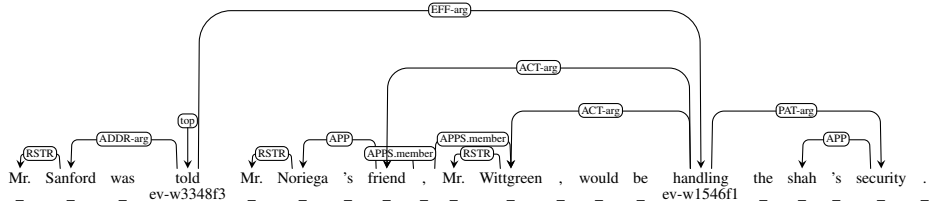
In January 1980 , Jerome Sanford , as assistant U.S. attorney , was summoned to a meeting with a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent assigned to the Bureau of Alcohol , Tobacco and Firearms in Miami .

[22013110]

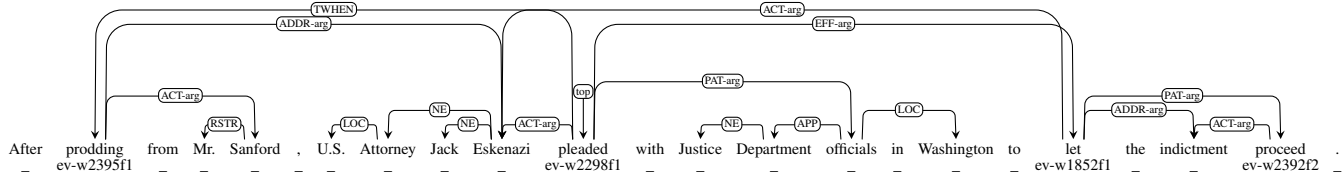




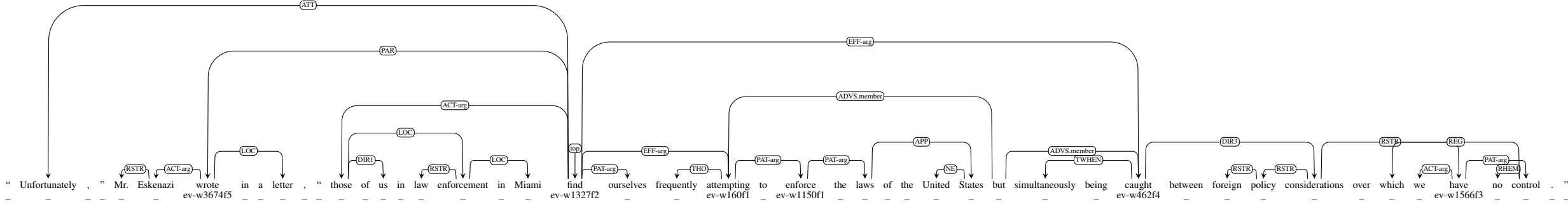
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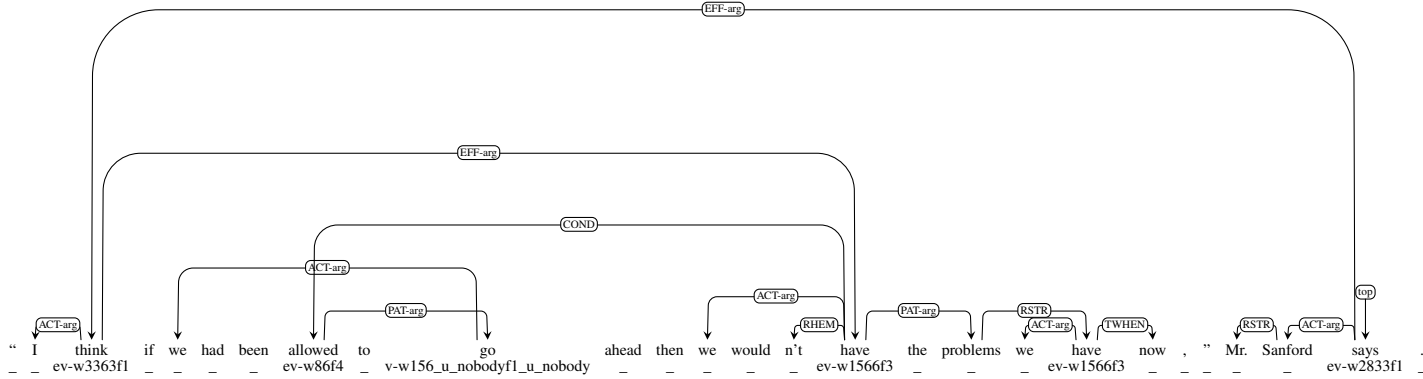
[220131113]



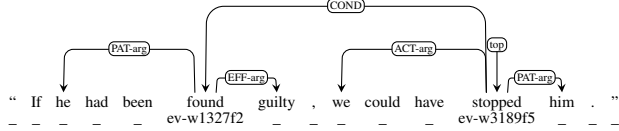
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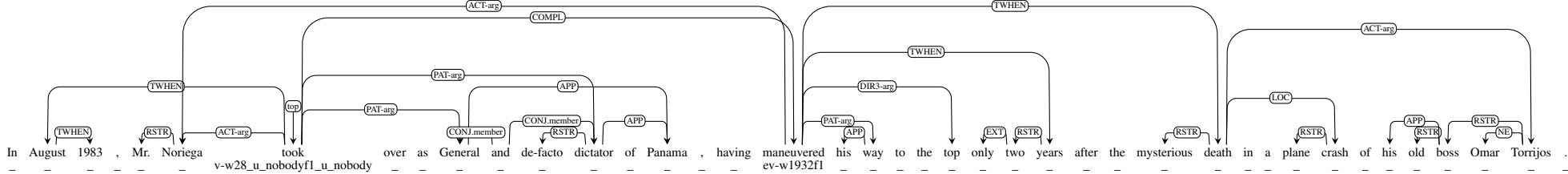
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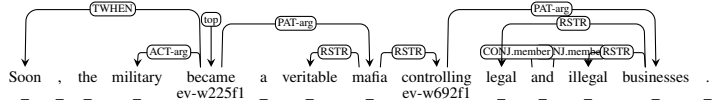
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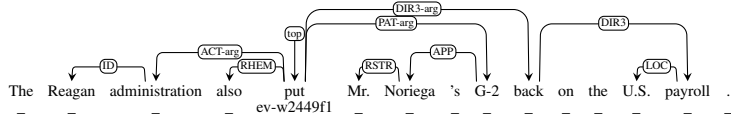
[220131118]



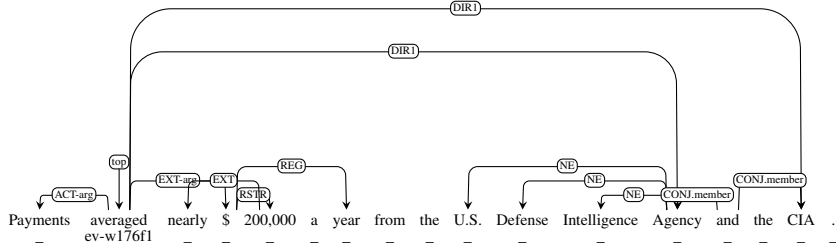
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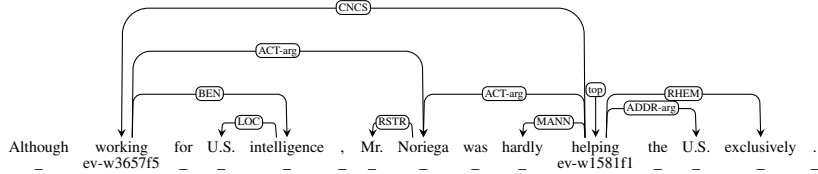
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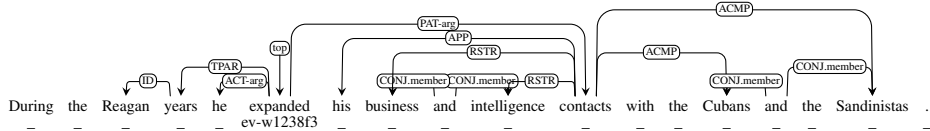
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[220131122]

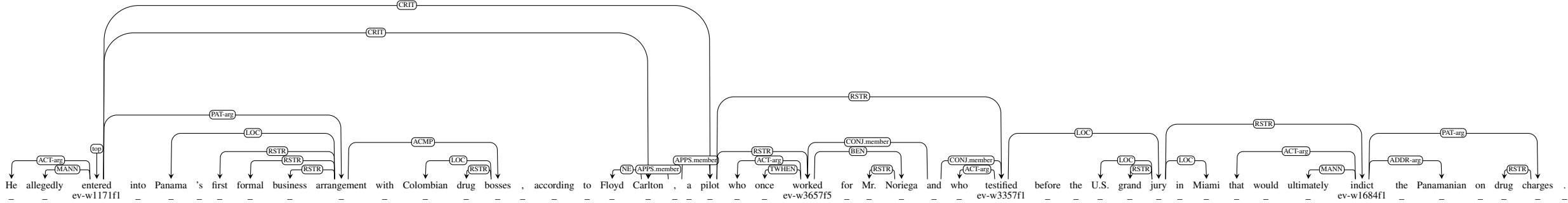


[220131123]

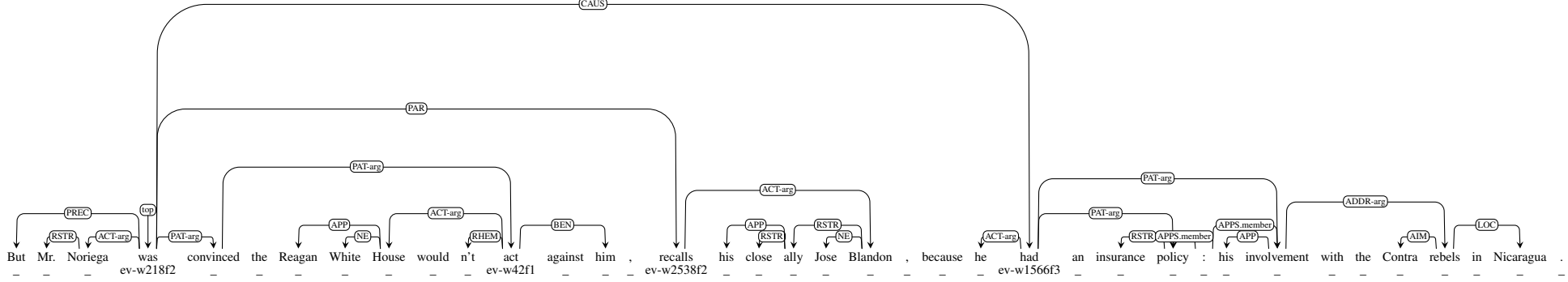


[220131124]

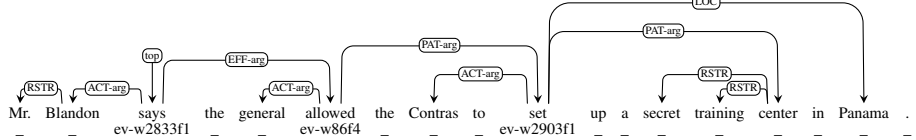




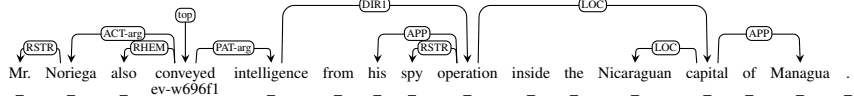
[22013125]



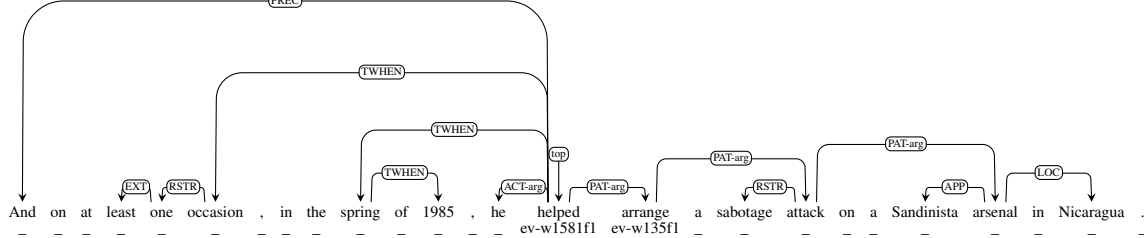
[22013126]



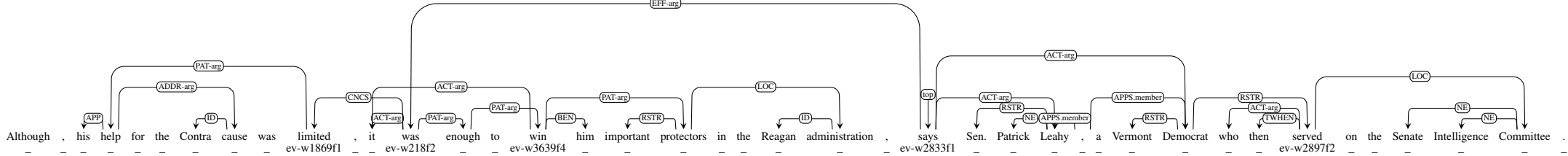
[22013127]



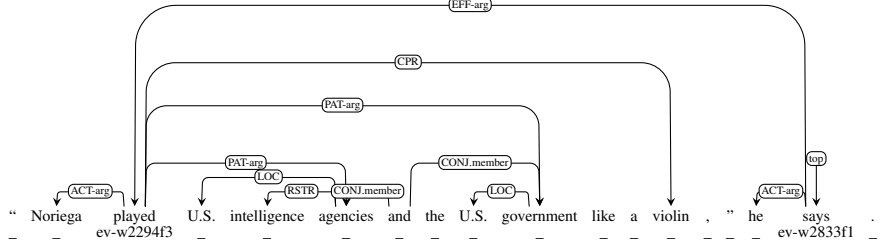
[22013128]



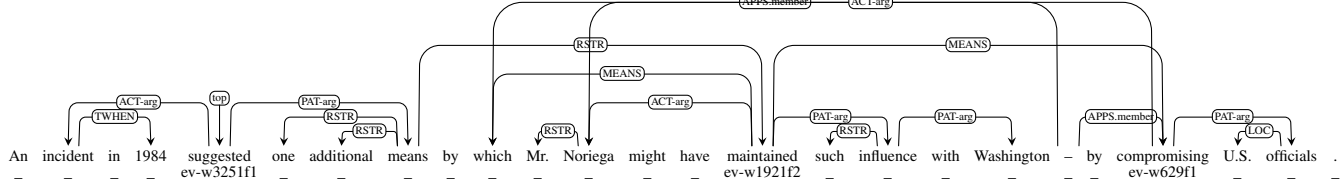
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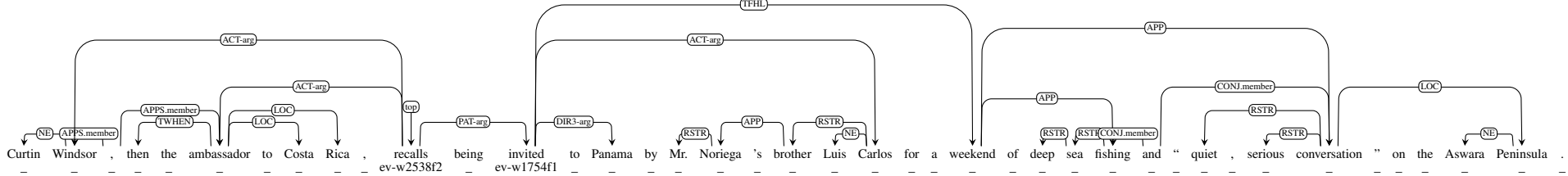
[22013130]



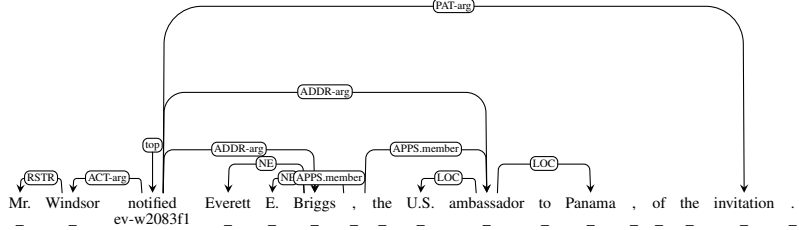
[22013131]



[22013132]



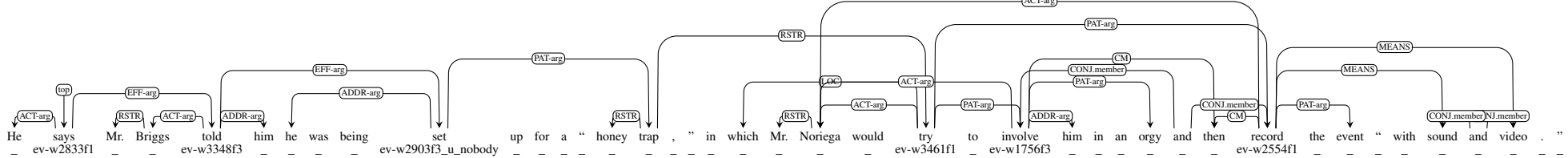
[22013133]



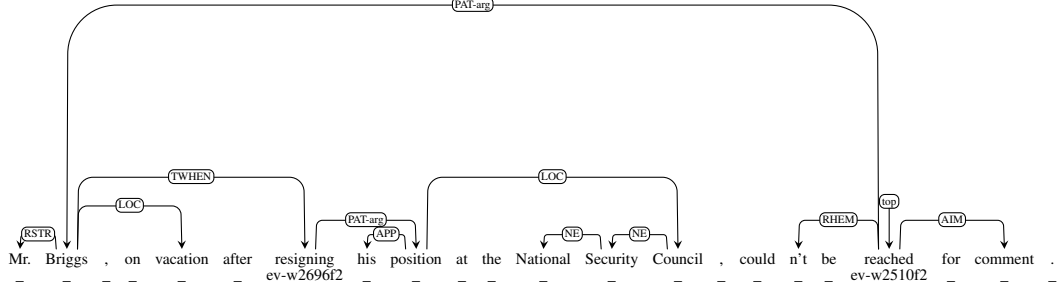
[22013134]



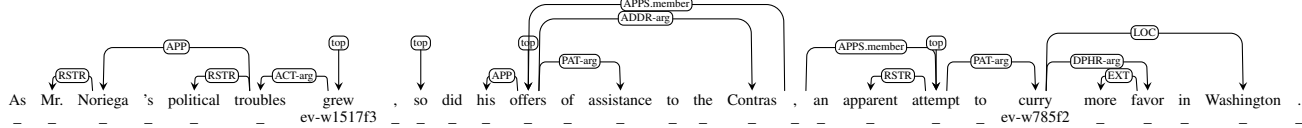
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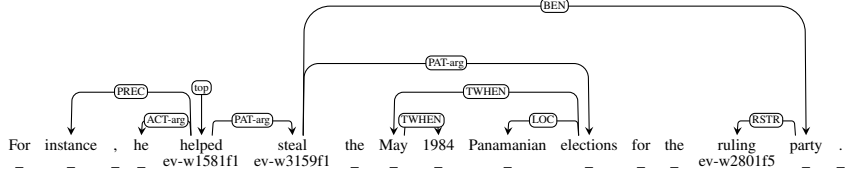
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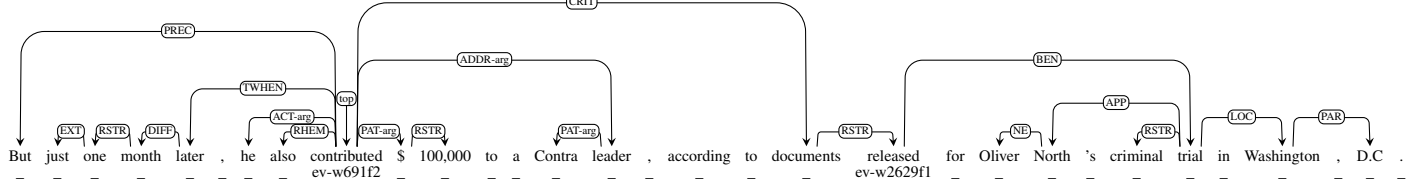
[22013137]



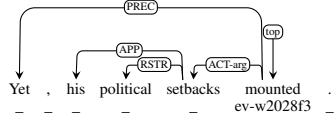
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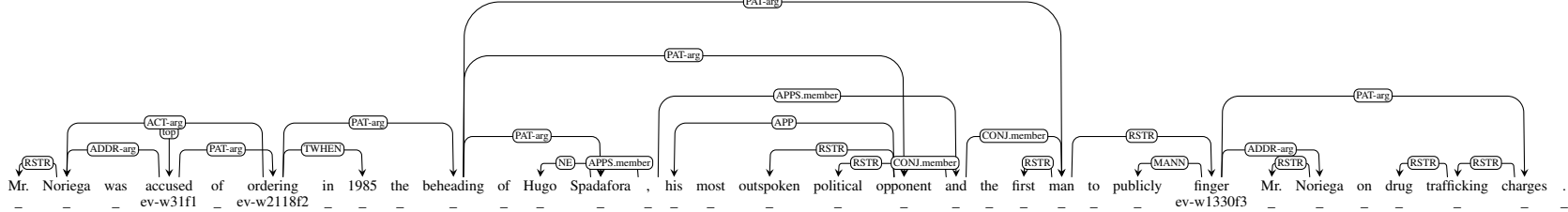
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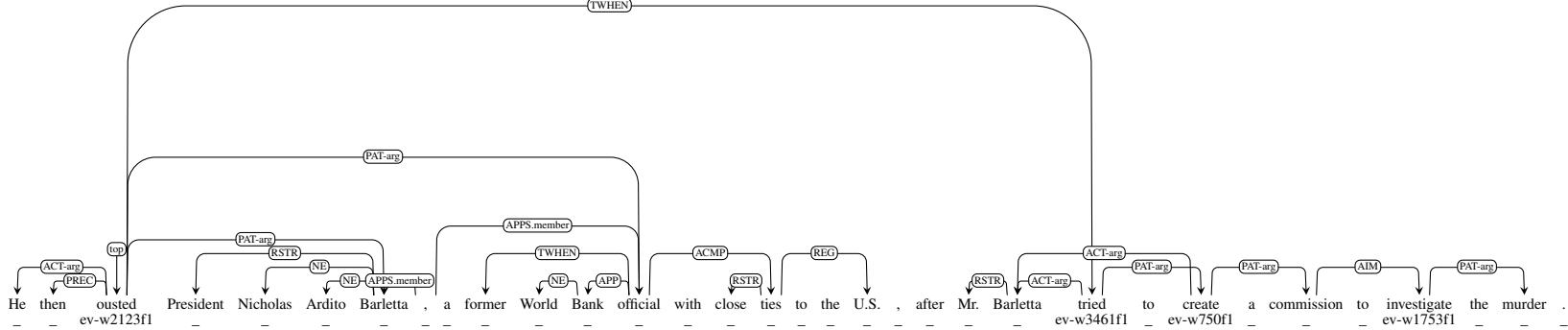
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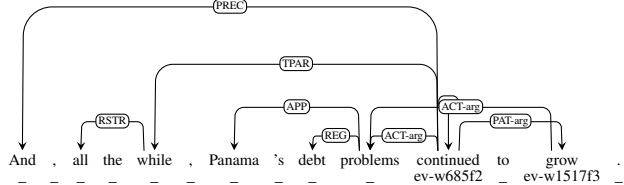
[22013141]



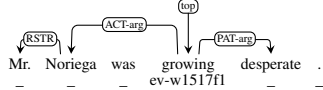
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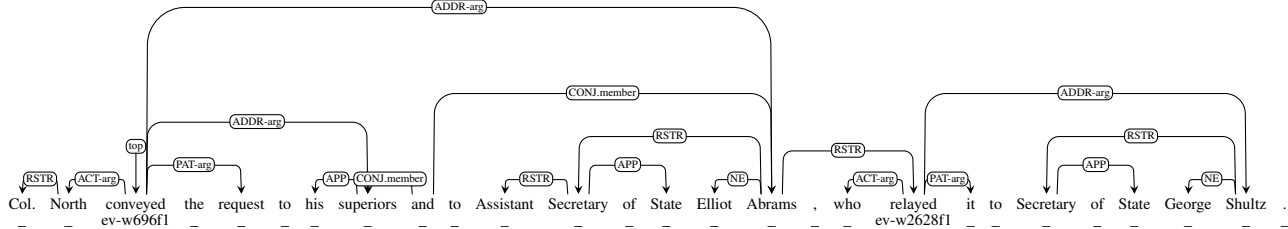
[22013143]



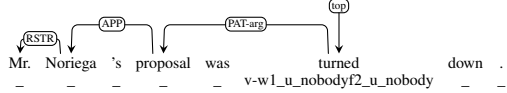
[22013144]



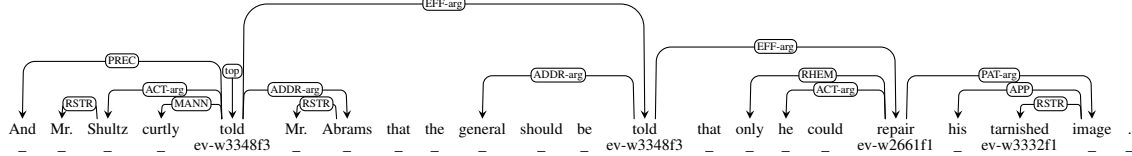
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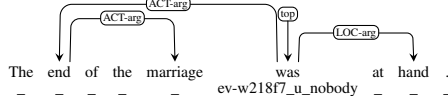
[22013150]



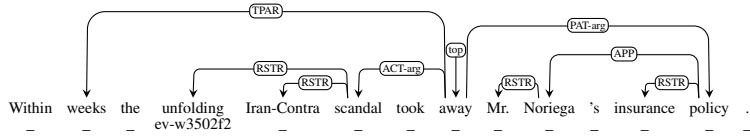
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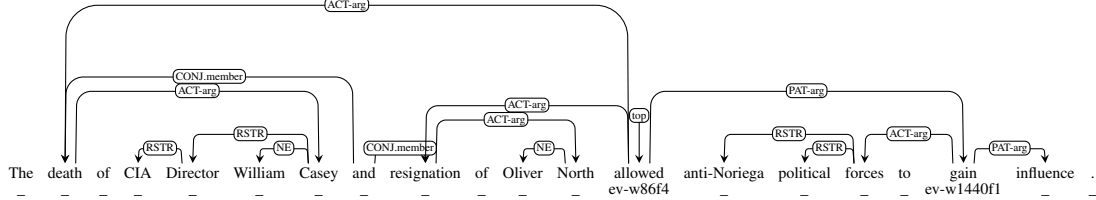
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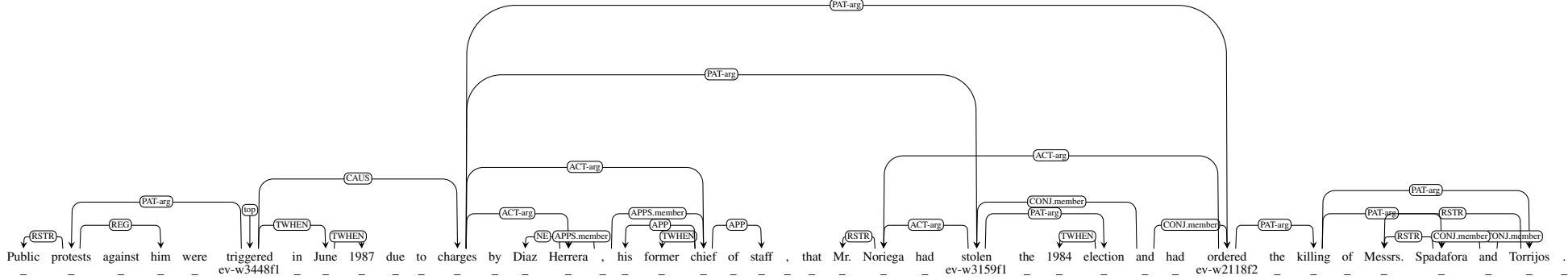
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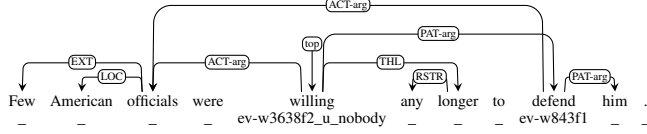
[22013154]



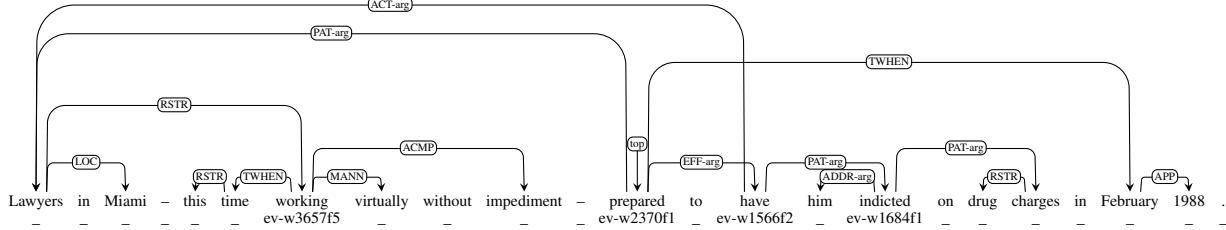
[22013155]



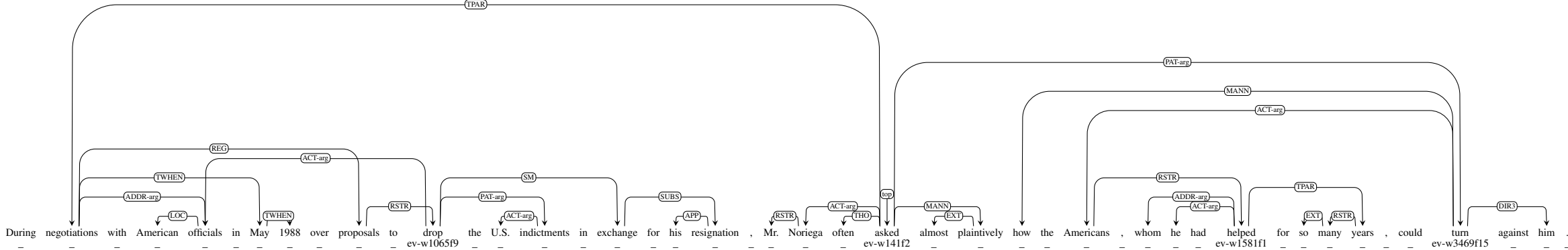
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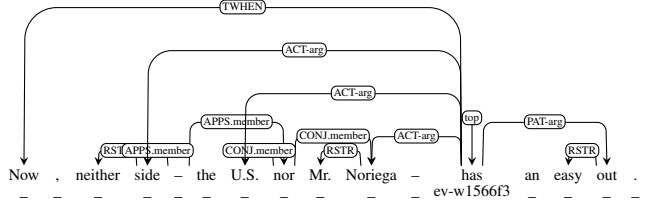
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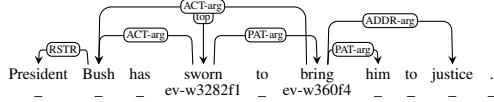
[22013158]



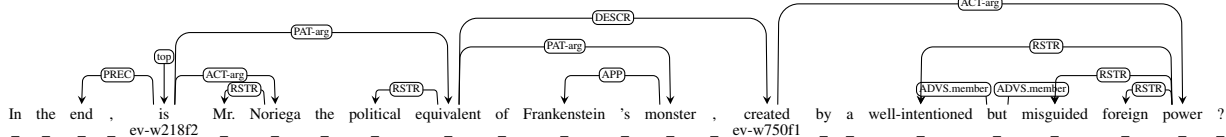
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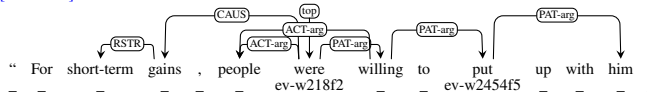
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[22013163]



[22013165]



[22013166]

