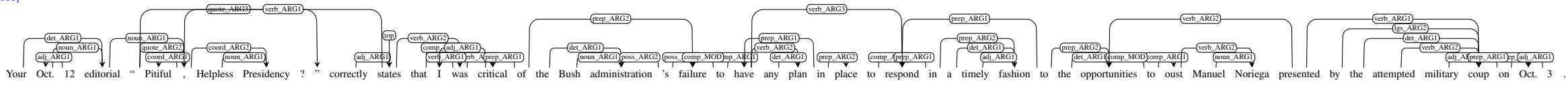
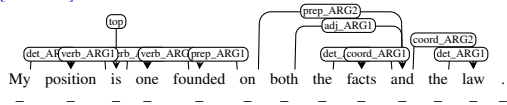


## Document 1602

[21602001]

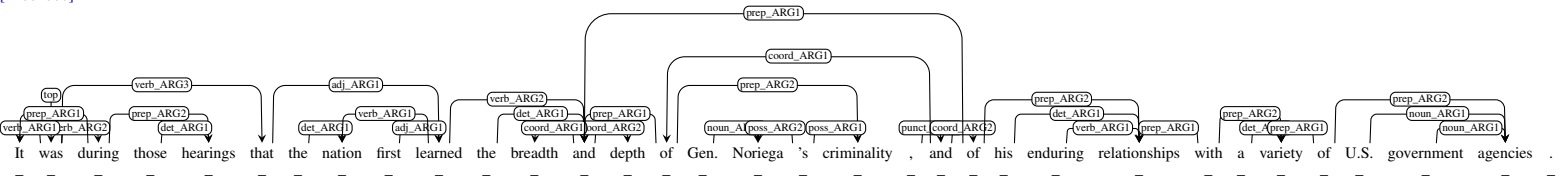


[21602003]



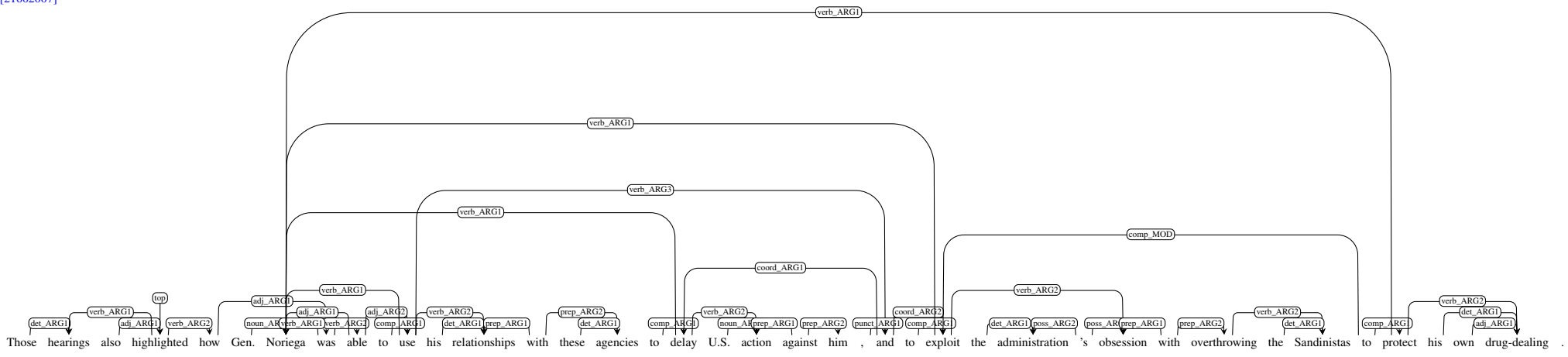
My position is one founded on both the facts and the law .  
 - - - - -

[21602006]



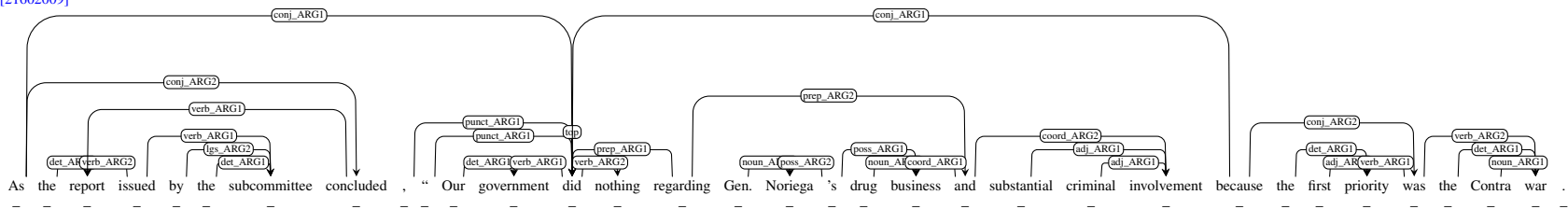
It was during those hearings that the nation first learned the breadth and depth of Gen. Noriega's criminality, and of his enduring relationships with a variety of U.S. government agencies.

[21602007]



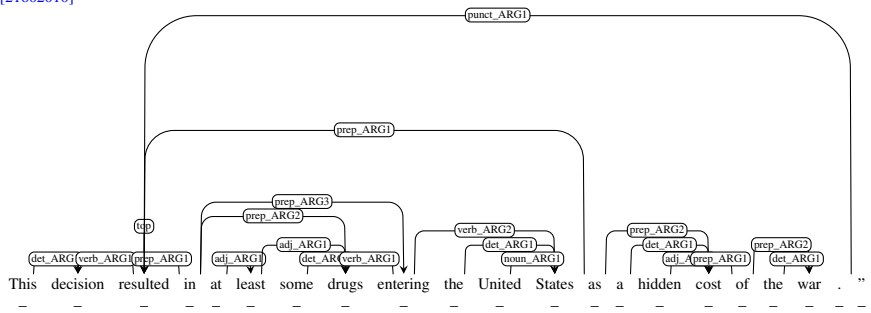
Those hearings also highlighted how Gen. Noriega was able to use his relationships with these agencies to delay U.S. action against him , and to exploit the administration 's obsession with overthrowing the Sandinistas to protect his own drug-dealing .

[21602009]



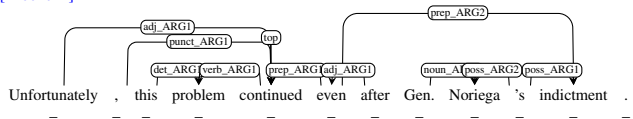
As the report issued by the subcommittee concluded , “ Our government did nothing regarding Gen. Noriega ’s drug business and substantial criminal involvement because the first priority was the Contra war .

[21602010]



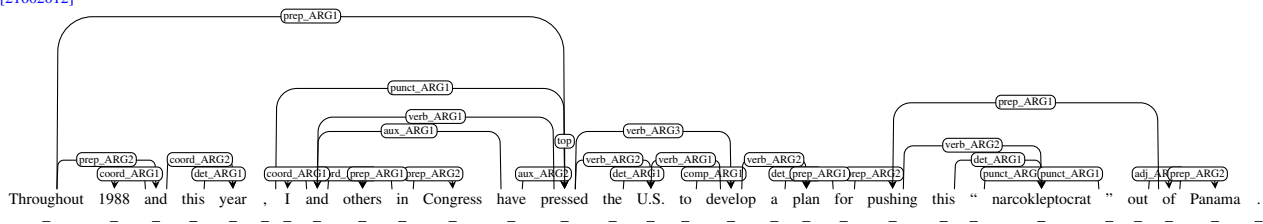
This decision resulted in at least some drugs entering the United States as a hidden cost of the war . "

[21602011]



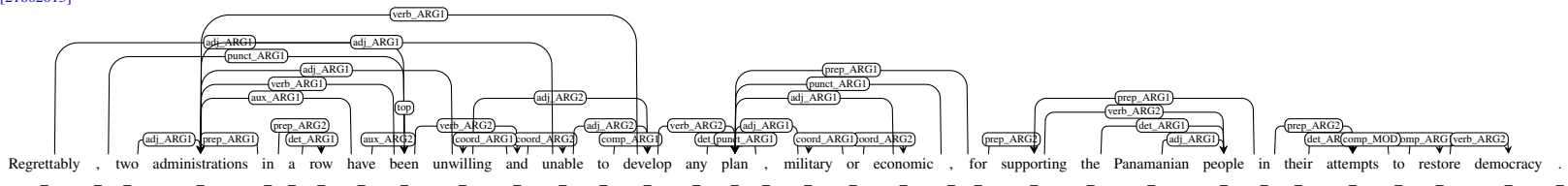
Unfortunately, this problem continued even after Gen. Noriega's indictment.

[21602012]



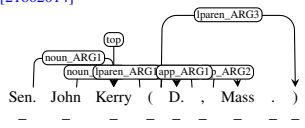
Throughout 1988 and this year, I and others in Congress have pressed the U.S. to develop a plan for pushing this "narcokleptocrat" out of Panama.

[21602013]



Regrettably , two administrations in a row have been unwilling and unable to develop any plan , military or economic , for supporting the Panamanian people in their attempts to restore democracy .

[21602014]



Sen.	John	Kerry	(	D.	,	Mass	.	)
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-