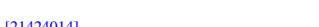


[21424001]



But due to dramatic events on the battlefield over the past few days and weeks , those Soviet bases may soon be as endangered and as lonely as the American runway .

[21424022]

On Sept 7 , I wrote on these pages about the killing and capturing of 10,000 Ethiopian soldiers by Eritrean and Tigrean guerrillas .

[21424023]

Recently , in Wollo province in the center of Ethiopia , Tigrean forces have killed , wounded and captured an additional 20,000 government troops .

[21424024]

(Think what these numbers mean - considering the headline space devoted to hundreds of deaths in Lebanon , a small country of little strategic importance !)

[21424026]

As a result , Mr. Mengistu has been forced to transfer thousands of troops from Eritrea just to hold the town , thereby risking the loss of even more territory in Eritrea only to keep the Tigreans at bay .

[21424027]

Mr. Mengistu is in an increasingly weak position : Half his army is tied down defending the northern city of Asmara from the Eritreans .

[21424029]

While the Tigreans are communists , like the Eritreans they are among the most anti-Soviet guerrillas in the world , having suffered more than a decade of aerial bombardment by the Soviet-supplied Mengistu air force .

[21424030]

What this all means in shorthand is that Soviet dominance in Ethiopia is collapsing as fast as President Barre 's regime in Somalia is .

[21424032]

Back to Somalia :

[21424033]

The State Department , to its credit , has already begun distancing itself from Mr. Barre , evinced by its decision to publish the Gersony report (which the press has ignored) .

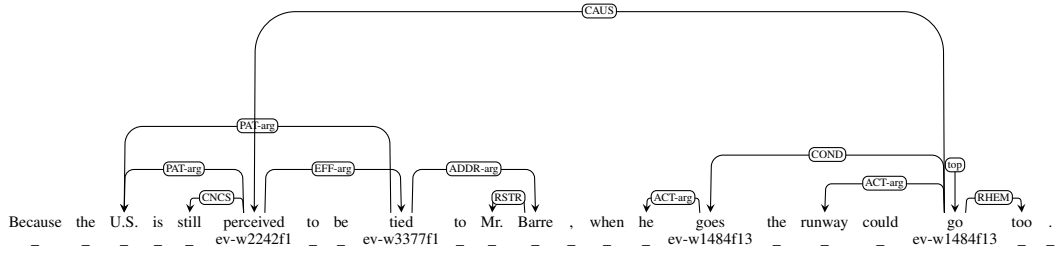
[21424034]

What 's more , the U.S. has suspended \$ 2.5 million in military aid and \$ 1 million in economic aid .

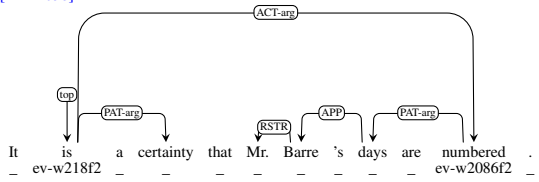
[21424035]

But this is not enough .

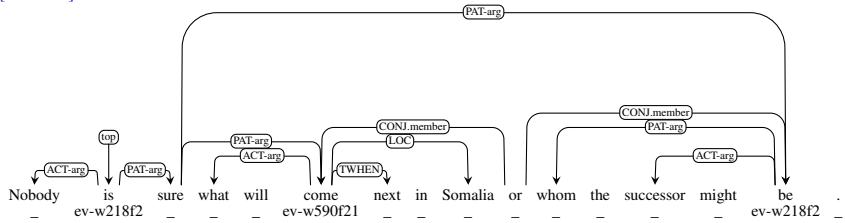
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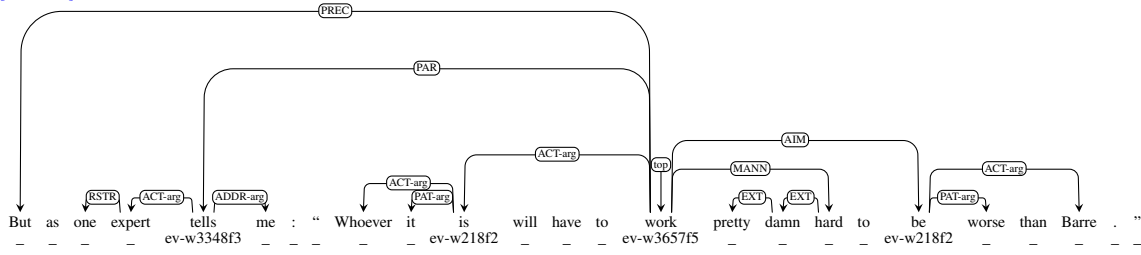
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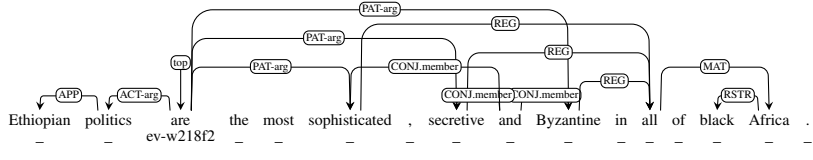
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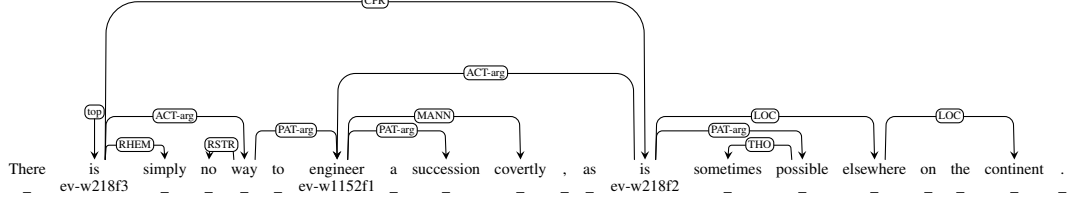
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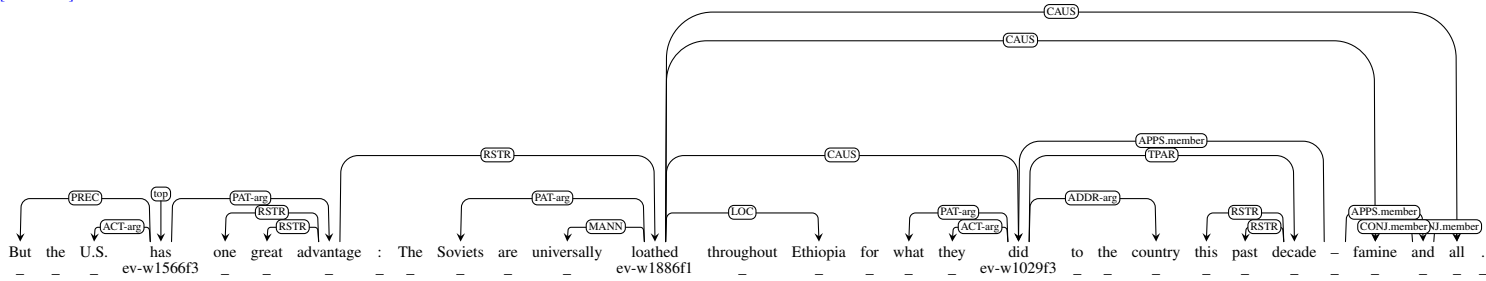
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[21424045]



[21424046]



[21424048]

