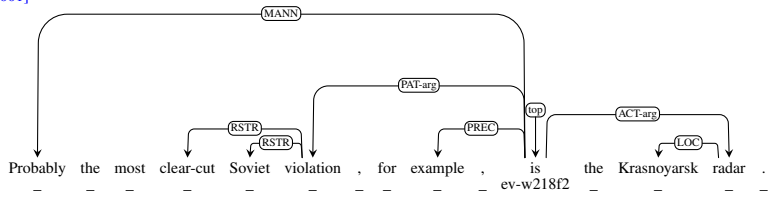
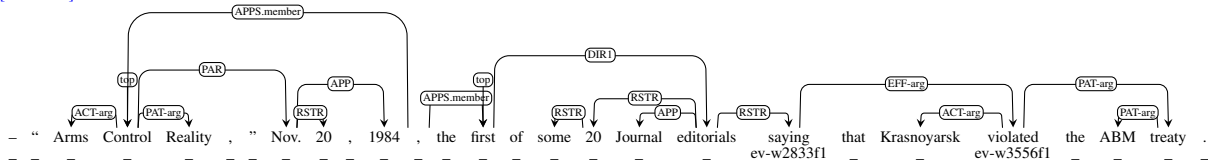


Document 1143

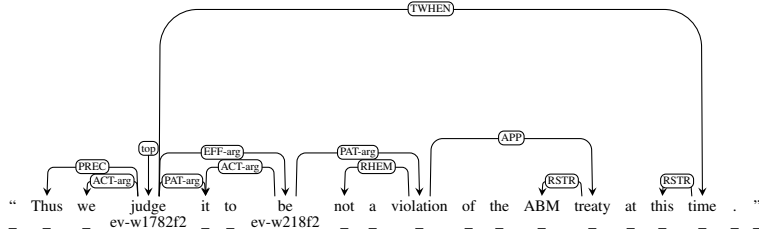
[21143001]



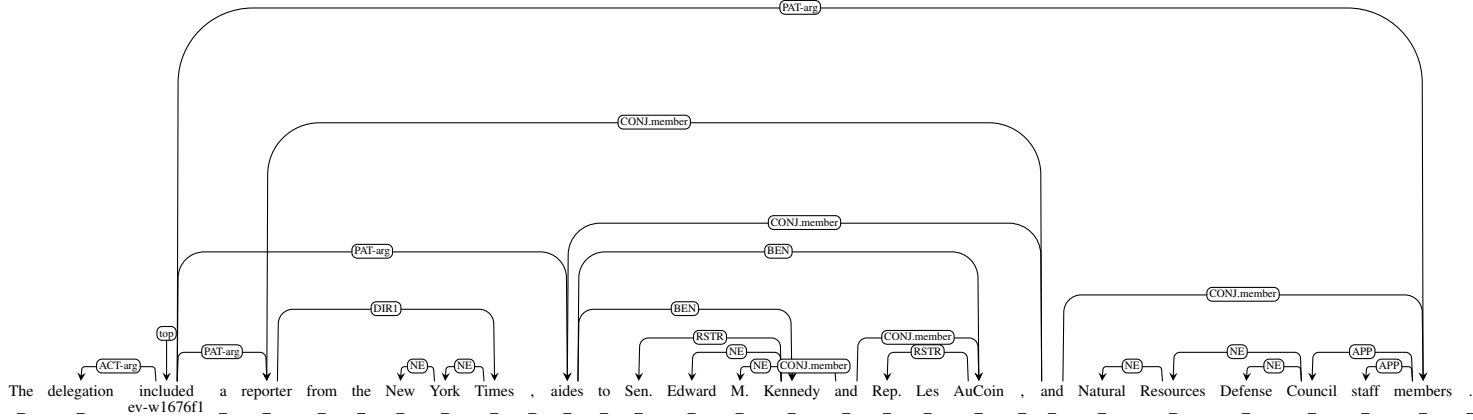
[21143002]



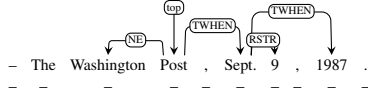
[21143004]



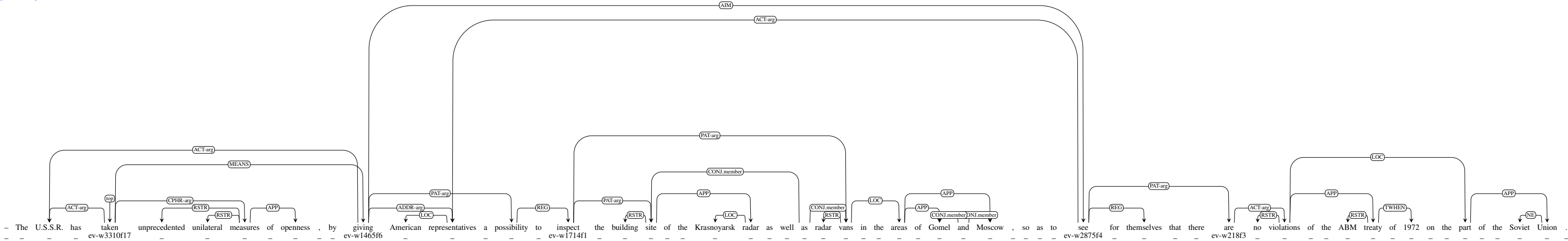
[21143005]



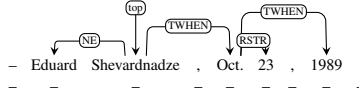
[21143006]



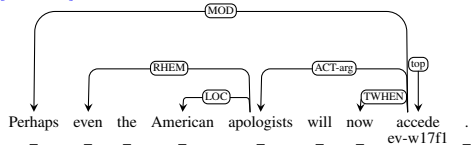
[21143007]



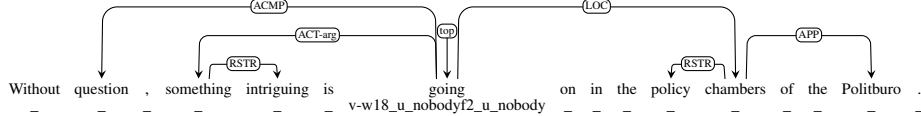
[21143010]



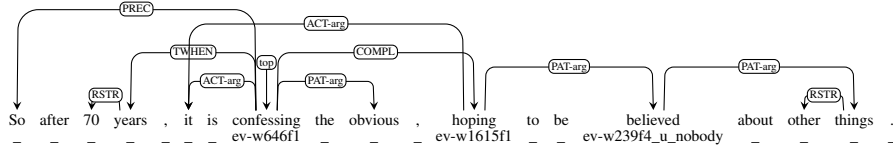
[21143012]



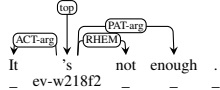
[21143013]



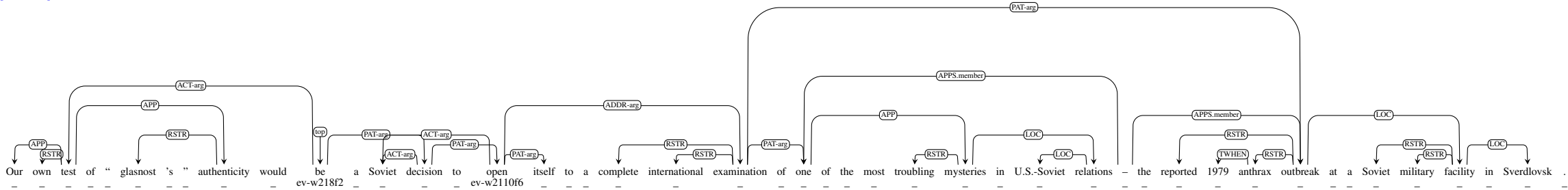
[21143015]



[21143016]



[21143018]



[21143019]

The U.S. government has never v-w591_u_nobodyf1_u_nobody in its assessment of this incident as an accident at a biological weapons facility there , and hence a violation of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention .

[21143020]

The Pentagon 's recently issued " Soviet Military Power , " though in general adopting a softer line , repeated the Sverdlovsk assessment .

[21143021]

It also was detailed in Congressional testimony this past February : An explosion at the Microbiology and Virology Institute in Sverdlovsk released anthrax germs that caused a significant number of deaths .

[21143022]

Since Mr. Shevardnadze did not address this topic before the Supreme Soviet , the Soviet Union 's official position remains that the anthrax deaths were caused by tainted meat .

[21143023]

We doubt this claim just as we doubted Mr. Shevardnadze 's assurance last year that Krasnoyarsk did n't violate the ABM treaty .

[21143025]

The Soviets ' explanation is that the anthrax came from one lot of animal feed made from the bones of cattle that grazed on soil that was naturally infected with anthrax spores .

[21143027]

We do n't believe it .

[21143028]

And we certainly do not believe that Mr. Gorbachev or any of his emissaries yet deserve to have take the West ev-w331074_u_nobody their word for it .

[21143029]

Sverdlovsk is a large gray cloud over glasnost and indeed over the legitimacy of the arms-control process itself .

[21143030]

The U.S. government 's Sverdlovsk complaint , as with Krasnoyarsk , is no mere political posturing .

[21143031]

Biological weapons violations have figured little in political debate , and indeed have not been pressed vigorously enough by the U.S. government .

[21143032]

But the stated U.S. position is detailed and specific , and the prospect of biological warfare is profoundly chilling .