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Deep Impact (by Sunday Silence) achieved the second leg of the Triple Crown for Classic races for 3-year-olds, winning the Tokyo Yushun. Atop Deep Impact is jockey Yutaka Take. On the left is the horse's owner Mr. Makoto Kaneko together with his wife. Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Yoshinobu Shimamura is second from the left. On the right is trainer Yasuo Ikee.

Review of JRA Races in 1st Half of 2005



Thirteenth pick Suzuka Mambo (by Sunday Silence, USA, out of Spring Mambo, GB) won the 131st Tenno Sho (Spring), while Australian challenger Makybe Diva (UK) (by Desert King, IRE, out of Tugela, USA) finished seventh.

During the first half of 2005, Japan's horse racing industry began to see a ray of hope in escaping its slump. JRA's annual profits have declined for seven years running since 1998, and as of the end of the spring racing season (the second week in June), they had declined 1.9 percent compared to the year before. However, the breadth of the downturn steadily shrank from a three percent decline at the end of February and, beginning in May, the numbers improved with each successive week. Signs of an overall economic recovery are visible, with the rate of GDP growth in the first quarter of 2005 calculated at 4.9 percent on an annual basis. The indicators of improving economic conditions were particularly striking in the Tokyo metropolitan area and in several prefectures in central Japan. With the appearance of long-awaited star horse Deep Impact, an air of optimism can also be noted in the industry.

From the perspective of international races, Japanese racing also entered a new phase this year. Continuing developments included a broad increase in the number of international races and agreements with various countries to establish new sprint and mile series. International races were increased from 22 last year to 60, and the Spring and Autumn Tenno Sho (GI) races, which had even excluded imported racehorses up to 1999, were

also opened to foreign-trained horses. Makybe Diva (GB, by Desert King, IRE), said to be the strongest mare in Australian history, was entered in the Tenno Sho (Spring) (GI) in Kyoto on May 1, attracting attention. Makybe Diva finished seventh in the April Stakes and later in the Tenno Sho (Spring). Her team members cited her "unsuitability to Japan's hard tracks" as the reason for her losses, but it is certain that she revitalized the 3,000-meter class GI, which has been said to be in a bit of a slump in recent years.

International Tie-ups

In sprints, an agreement with Australia's Racing Victoria and the U.K.'s Ascot Racecourse led to the launch of the Global Sprint Challenge. Two races have already been completed in Australia and Hong Kong's Cape of Good Hope (GB, by Inchinor, GB) leads in the point contest. He was also entered in last year's Sprinters Stakes, finishing third, and is expected to visit Japan in the fall. In mile races, JRA and the Hong Kong Jockey Club announced the establishment of the Asian Mile Challenge in March. It was decided that a US\$1 million bonus would be paid to the horse that won both the May 14 Champions Mile at Hong Kong's Sha Tin Racecourse and the June 5 Yasuda Kinen (GI). Hokkaido NAR's Cosmo Bulk (by Zagreb, GB) suffered a stunning 10th place defeat in the Champions Mile. The first, second and fourth place finishers in the Champions Mile — Bullish Luck, Silent Witness and Bowman's Crossing — were entered in the Yasuda Kinen. Silent Witness, whose record string of 17 consecutive

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Reporter for the Nihon Keizai Shimbun

victories was snapped at the Champions Mile, showed strength, finishing third at the Yasuda Kinen. Bullish Luck put up a good fight to finish fourth, resulting in a demonstration of the depth of the Hong Kong challengers in both sprints and the mile.

Deep Impact Lives Up to His Name

In Classic races for 3-year-olds, Deep Impact (by Sunday Silence, USA, out of Wind in her Hair, IRE) won the Satsuki Sho (GI) and the Japanese Derby (GI). He was the sixth undefeated horse in history to win both crowns. Deep Impact ran away with a four-length lead in his debut race last December at Hanshin Racecourse. At the beginning of this year he had consecutive wins in the Wakagoma Stakes and Yayoi Sho (GII), and he entered the Satsuki Sho as the overwhelming favorite. He jolted fans and officials at the Satsuki Sho when he nearly stumbled after a slow start, but moved up steadily from mid-race and galloped away down the stretch, leaving second place finisher Six Sense (by Sunday Silence, USA) behind by 2 1/2 lengths. He was an unprecedented favorite six weeks later at the Japanese Derby, with the highest ratio of win bets placed in racing history, 73.4 percent. Even though he was slow out of the gate here as well, he moved up with around 800 meters left to go and quickly took the lead down the stretch. This time, he left second place Inti Raimi (by Special Week, JPN) behind by five lengths. He tied the course record of 2:23.3 set by King Kamehameha (by Kingmambo, USA) last year, but his split time over the first 1,200 meters was 2.8 seconds slower than the previous year, so his win could be said to be of extremely high merit. JRA handicappers have granted Derby winner Deep Impact a provisional 119 rating.

Fillies Shine

Races for 3-year-old fillies featured two leading contenders, Rhein Kraft (by

End Sweep, USA) and Cesario (by Special Week, JPN). Following an easy win in last year's Fantasy Stakes (GIII), Rhein Kraft was bested by a small margin and finished third in the race that crowns the queen of the 2-year-olds, the Hanshin Juvenile Fillies (GI). However, in 2005 she held on for her third victory in the Fillies' Review (GIII), the run-up to the Oka Sho (Japanese 1000 Guineas, GI). She conceded Cesario the favorite's ranking in the Oka Sho, but, starting far to the outside in Gate 17, promptly seized a good position and quickly acquired the lead in the stretch. She held off Cesario, who was in furious pursuit down to the wire, to win by a head. Because Rhein Kraft's sire excelled at sprint and mile contests, she was entered in the NHK Mile Cup (GI), with the same 1,600-meter distance, after the Oka Sho. This time, she effortlessly moved into fine position for an easy win. Daring Heart (by Sunday Silence, USA) followed her third place finish in the Oka Sho by coming in second, making it the first time since the race's inauguration that fillies had captured first and second. It was also the first win by a filly since Seeking the Pearl's victory eight years earlier. Even though the races are the same distance, there had been no previous example of fillies moving from the Oka Sho to the NHK Mile Cup and this year's result will undoubtedly have an impact on fillies' activities from next year on.

The other major contender, Cesario, also debuted at Hanshin Racecourse last December. With three consecutive wins, including in some condition races and the Flower Cup (GIII), she was the favorite at the Oka Sho, but finished a disappointing second, affected by the lack of distance. At the Japanese Oaks (Yushun Himba, GI), however, where she had far and away the most fan support, she got off to a slow start and faced hard going in pursuit. In the end, she showed off her powerful finishing kick down the stretch, besting Air Messiah (by Sunday Silence, USA) and the rest. It has been five years since her handler, trainer Katsuhiko Sumii, started in the business. He is a new face who captured the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger, GI) with Delta Blues (by Dance in the Dark, JPN) last year. Cesario won the victory in the American Oaks (GI) held at the Hollywood Park Racecourse on July 3.

Older Horses

In contrast to the Classic races for 3-year-olds, in which the main challengers showed their strength in an orderly fashion, the events for older horses were striking for the absence of leading contenders and confusing outcomes in all the major races. In the Tenno Sho (Spring), where Makybe Diva's participation attracted attention, Zenno Rob Roy (by Sunday Silence, USA) and Tap Dance City (by Pleasant Tap, USA), who captured first and second in last year's Arima Kinen (Grand Prix, GI), far outrunning the rest of the horses, both skipped the race. In a series of lead-up events, the pattern of upsets in which different winners emerged one after the other continued. Suzuka Mambo (by Sunday Silence, USA), in the lower tier of the 18 entrants at the Tenno Sho as the 13th pick, broke from a good position down the stretch to best 7-year-old Big Gold (by Brian's Time, USA), who finished second after holding the lead, and recorded the highest trifecta payoff in GI history, ¥1,939,420. Tap Dance City, not entered in the Tenno Sho, flew away to achieve his third consecutive victory in the Kinko Sho (GII) at Chukyo Racecourse at the end of May.

All Eyes on the Future

What was noteworthy were the accomplishments by 6-year-olds in sprints and mile races. In the March Takamatsumomiya Kinen (GI) at Chukyo Racecourse, 6-year-old Admire Max (by Sunday Silence, USA) kicked away from the outside to coast to victory, giving this talented horse, who placed second in the 2003 Yasuda Kinen, his first G1 win. Horses bred by Northern Farm (Hayakitacho, Hokkaido), breeder of Admire Max, won all the first half's GI events for 3-year-olds and this race and its string of successes included six out of nine wins up to the Yasuda Kinen (GI).

With three strong entrants from Hong Kong, opinions on the picks for the Yasuda Kinen were split, but Asakusa Denen (by Singspiel, IRE), winner of the



Rhein Kraft (by End Sweep, USA, out of Must Be Loved) follows up her Oka Sho (GI) victory with a win in the NHK Mile Cup (GI).

preliminary Keio Hai Spring Cup, rode the crest of his success to achieve his first GI victory at 6 years of age. Singspiel, the 1996 Japan Cup (International, GI) winner, had produced his first GI winner in Japan. On the other hand, Meisho Bowler (by Taiki Shuttle, USA), who turned in a third place finish in last year's Satsuki Sho (GI), picked up his first GI win at the age of 4 by flying away, using a bold strategy to grab the lead in the February Stakes GI dirt race. His mount, jockey Yuichi Fukunaga, whose famous jockey father Yoichi had great success during the 70s, is in his 10th season this year. This win was the first of four GI victories, including the Oka Sho, NHK Mile Cup and Oaks, in a successful first half.

Whether the signs of a recovery visible in May turn into an actual trend is the main focus of attention. It is vital that the star horses in the first half of this year are able to perform well in the second half as well, since in the past few years many winning horses in the Classic races have not been able to stay in condition until the autumn or until they reach 4 years old. It is thought this is the key issue regarding the full recovery of pari-mutuel handle. Examples of horses who were victorious in Classic races, but unable to maintain their achievements in the fall or upon reaching 4 years of age, have been notable in recent years and whether Deep Impact continues racing without stumbling is a question for the future.

2005 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) (GI)



The 72nd running of the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby), which determines the winner out of 8,966 3-year-old Thoroughbreds, saw Deep Impact break away on the outside coming down the stretch to the finish line. The winning time of 2:23.3 for 2,400m is the same time that King Kamehameha ran last year. Deep Impact now has five wins out of five starts. Deep Impact became the sixth horse in history, after a break of 13 years, to take a double crown victory with no loss. The rate of win wagers was 73.4% a Derby record. It was horse owner Makoto Kaneko's second straight Derby victory, and the first Derby victory for trainer Yasuo Ikee. It was jockey Yutaka Take's fourth Derby win.



Post-awards ceremony photo session with Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Yoshinobu Shimamura (front row, 5th from left) and connections.



140,000 excited fans came out to see this year's Japanese Derby, exceeding last year's attendance.

2005 Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks) (GI)



The paddock for the Yushun Himba (Japanese Oaks).



Representing Carrot Farm, Cesario's owner receives the award from JRA President and CEO Masayuki Takahashi.



Jockey Yuichi Fukunaga takes a lap after winning his second Oaks victory.



Cesario (No. 4) won with a burst of speed down the stretch leaving the other horses behind.

Australia Day

Australia Day was held at Kyoto Racecourse on April 23, featuring the Australia Trophy, Melbourne Trophy, Moonee Valley Racing Club Trophy, and Sydney Trophy races.



Mr. Craig Opie, a member of the Moonee Valley Racing Club Committee.



Mr. Peter Lawrence (5th from left), committee member and former chairman of Melbourne Racing Club, together with Ms. Mary Rowe.

Asia Week

Chukyo Racecourse's six Asia Week races staged on June 11 and 12 included the Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy, India Trophy, Macau Jockey Club Trophy, Malayan Racing Association Trophy, Philippines Trophy, and Thailand Cup.



From the left: Dr. Naoaki Koike (Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs of JRA), Mr. & Mrs. Nang Jang Wong (Honorary Treasurer of Singapore Turf Club), Mrs. Okamoto, Mr. Anthony W. K. Chow (Member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Board of Stewards), Mr. Kinya Okamoto (President & COO of JAIR).



Mr. Alfonso R. Reyno, Jr. (5th from right), President and CEO of the Manila Jockey Club, Inc. together with Mr. Alfonso G. Reyno III (2nd from right), the club's Executive Vice President and COO.

Japanese Graded Race Results -2005-



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥27,750,607,900

On-course: 6.0% Off-course: 94.0%

22nd running THE FEBRUARY STAKES (G1)

Tokyo Racecourse	February 20	Value of race: ¥184,320,000	4-Year-Olds & Up
1,600m	Dirt (sloppy)	1:34.7/10 (New course record)	15 Runners

Winner

- Meisho Bowler (Yuichi Fukunaga, 57.0 kg), dk.b., c.4; Taiki Shuttle - Nice Raise by Storm Cat
 O-Yoshio Matsumoto, T-Toshiaki Shirai, B-Hinode Bokujo; Winning money: ¥97,444,000
- Seeking the Dia (USA)(Olivier Peslier, 57.0 kg), b., c.4; Storm Cat - Seeking the Pearl by Seeking the Gold
 - Hishi Atlas (Masayoshi Ebina, 57.0 kg), dk.b., h.5; Timber Country - Tax Haven by Alydar
 - Time Paradox (Yutaka Take, 57.0 kg), ch., h.7; Brian's Time - Jolie Zaza by Alzao
 - Admire Don (Katsumi Ando, 57.0 kg), b., h.6; Timber Country - Vega by Tony Bin
- Margin: 1-1/4, NK, 1-1/2, 1, THE FEBRUARY STAKES only: ¥17,222,285,500, Attendance: 62,686



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥18,655,380,300

On-course: 4.4% Off-course: 95.6%

35th running THE TAKAMATSUNOMIYA KINEN (G1)

Chukyo Racecourse	March 27	Value of race: ¥184,800,000	4-Year-Olds & Up
1,200m	Turf (firm)	1:08.4/10 (Course record 1:06.9/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Admire Max (Yutaka Take, 57.0 kg), b., h.6; Sunday Silence - Dyna Shoot by Northern Taste
O-Riichi Kondo, T-Mitsuru Hashida, B-Northern Farm, Winning money: ¥97,780,000
- Keeneland Swan (USA)(Hirofumi Shii, 57.0 kg), ch., h.6; Distant View - To Act by Roberto
 - Precious Cafe (Masayoshi Ebina, 57.0 kg), b., h.6; Heart Lake - Air Incense by Sunday Silence
 - Calstone Light O (Naohiro Onishi, 57.0 kg), dk.b., h.7; Warning - Oshima Lucia by Crystal Glitters
 - Nike Ahead (USA)(Issei Murata, 57.0 kg), b., h.6; Boston Harbor - Bay Barrister by Miswaki
- Margin: 2-1/2, NK, 1/2, NK, THE TAKAMATSUNOMIYA KINEN only: ¥14,695,987,200, Attendance: 40,510



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥29,473,564,300

On-course: 4.4% Off-course: 95.6%

65th running THE OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS) (G1)

Hanshin Rececourse	April 10	Value of race: ¥206,730,000	3-Year-Olds, Fillies
1,600m	Turf (firm)	1:33.5/10 (Course record 1:31.9/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Rhein Kraft (Yuichi Fukunaga, 55.0 kg), b., f.3; End Sweep - Must Be Loved by Sunday Silence
O-Shigemasa Osawa, T-Tsutomu Setoguchi, B-Northern Farm, Winning money: ¥115,481,000
- Cesario (Minoru Yoshida, 55.0 kg), blk., f.3; Special Week - Kirov Premiere by Sadler's Wells
 - Daring Heart (Mirco Demuro, 55.0 kg), ch., f.3; Sunday Silence - Daring Danzig by Danzig
 - Air Messiah (Yutaka Take, 55.0 kg), b., f.3; Sunday Silence - Air Deja Vu by Northern Taste
 - Dantsu Queen Bee (Futoshi Komaki, 55.0 kg), b., f.3; Special Week - Dantsu Sure by Storm Cat
- Margin: HD, NK, 1-3/4, 3/4, THE OKA SHO only: ¥21,640,611,600, Attendance: 65,584



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥8,087,097,200

On-course: 8.2% Off-course: 91.8%

7th running THE NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP (J-G1)

Nakayama Rececourse	April 16	Value of race: ¥152,700,000	4-Year-Olds & Up
4,250m	Jump (firm)	4:50.4/10 (Course record 4:47.0/10)	14 Runners

Winner

- Karasi (IRE) (Brett Scott, 63.5 kg), b., g.10; Kahyasi - Karamita by Shantung
O-Pearse Morgan, T-Eric Musgrove, B-His Highness the Aga Khan's Studs S.C.; Winning money: ¥80,490,000
- Cheers Shining (Yoshiyuki Yokoyama, 63.5 kg), b., h.6; Commander in Chief - Green Sumire by Northerly
 - Laurel Royce (Koshi Yamamoto, 63.5 kg), dk.b.,h.5; Genuine - Lunar Sphere by Jade Robbery
 - Mejiro Ervin (Nobuo Kado, 63.5 kg), b.,h.6; Dance in the Dark - Mejiro Fantasy by Gay Mecene
 - Fusaichi Jihad (Tsuyoshi Tanaka, 63.5 kg), b.,h.8; Jade Robbery - Begonia by Plugged Nickle
- Margin: 1-1/4, 1/2, 4, HD, THE NAKAYAMA GRAND JUMP only: ¥1,782,315,700, Attendance: 35,450



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥34,498,745,200

On-course: 5.9% Off-course: 94.1%

65th running THE SATSUKI SHO (JAPANESE 2000 GUINEAS) (G1)

Nakayama Rececourse	April 17	Value of race: ¥234,700,000	3-Year-Olds, Entire Colts & Fillies
2,000m	Turf (firm)	1:59.2/10 (Course record 1:58.5/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Deep Impact (Yutaka Take, 57.0 kg), b., c.3; Sunday Silence - Wind In Her Hair by Alzao
O-Makoto Kaneko, T-Yasuo Ikee, B-Northern Farm, Winning money: ¥132,000,000
- Six Sense (Hirofumi Shii, 57.0 kg), blk., c.3; Sunday Silence - Daneskaya by Danehill
 - Admire Japan (Norihiro Yokoyama, 57.0 kg), ch., c.3; Sunday Silence - Biwa Heidi by Caerleon
 - Meiner Recolte (Hiroki Goto, 57.0 kg), b., c.3; Chief Bearhart - Miyagi Minoru by Tai Tehm
 - Admire Fuji (Yuichi Fukunaga, 57.0 kg), dk.b., c.3; Admire Vega - Admire Lapis by Be My Guest
- Margin: 2-1/2, 1, 1-1/2, NK, THE SATSUKI SHO only: ¥25,676,160,600, Attendance: 85,146



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥33,182,918,000

On-course: 5.7% Off-course: 94.3%

131st running THE TENNO SHO (SPRING) (G1)

Kyoto Racecourse	May 1	Value of race: ¥256,960,000	4-Year-Olds & Up, Entire Colts & Fillies
3,200m	Turf (firm)	3:16.5/10 (Course record 3:14.4/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Suzuka Mambo (Katsumi Ando, 58.0 kg), b., c.4; Sunday Silence - Spring Mambo by Kingmambo
 O- Keiji Nagai, T- Mitsuru Hashida, B- Grand Stud, Winning money: ¥136,032,000
- Big Gold (Ryuji Wada, 58.0 kg), b., h.7; Brian's Time - Beautiful Gold by Mr. Prospector
 - Eye Popper (Shinji Fujita, 58.0 kg), ch., h.5; Soccer Boy - Sunday I. by Sunday Silence
 - Tosho Knight (Tomoharu Bushizawa, 58.0 kg), ch., c.4; Timber Country - Midnight Oasis by Java Gold
 - Heart's Cry (Norihiro Yokoyama, 58.0 kg), b., c.4; Sunday Silence - Irish Dance by Tony Bin
- Margin: 1-1/2, NS, NS, 2-1/2, THE TENNO SHO only: ¥25,456,349,600, Attendance: 88,452



On-course: 6.1% Off-course: 93.9%

10th running THE NHK MILE CUP (G1)

Tokyo Racecourse	May 8	Value of race: ¥180,900,000	3-Year-Olds, Entire Colts and Fillies
1,600m	Turf (firm)	1:33.6/10 (Course record 1:32.0/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Rhein Kraft (Yuichi Fukunaga, 55.0 kg), b., f.3; End Sweep - Must Be Loved by Sunday Silence
 O-Shigemasa Osawa, T-Tsutomu Setoguchi, B-Northern Farm, Winning money: ¥95,990,000
- Daring Heart (Hiroki Goto, 55.0 kg), ch., f.3; Sunday Silence - Daring Danzig by Danzig
 - I'll Love Again (Norihiro Yokoyama, 57.0 kg), b., c.3; El Condor Pasa - Tokio Reality by Meadowlake
 - Peer Gynt (Yutaka Take, 57.0 kg), dk.b., c.3; Sunday Silence - Twinkle Bride by Lyphard
 - Seiunni Mukau (Katsumi Ando, 57.0 kg), b., c.3; Carnegie - Promise Talk by Jade Robbery
- Margin: 1-3/4, NK, 2, 1-1/4, THE NHK MILE CUP only: ¥16,925,489,000, Attendance: 66,845



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥30,461,608,800

On-course: 5.9% Off-course: 94.1%

66th running THE YUSHUN HIMBA (JAPANESE OAKS) (G1)

Tokyo Racecourse	May 22	Value of race: ¥227,330,000	3-Year-Olds, Fillies
2,400m	Turf (firm)	2:28.8/10 (Course record 2:23.3/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Cesario (Yuichi Fukunaga, 55.0 kg), br., f.3; Special Week - Kirov Premiere by Sadler's Wells
 O-U.Carrot Farm, T-Katsuhiko Sumii, B-Northern Farm, Winning money: ¥126,841,000
- Air Messiah (Yutaka Take, 55.0 kg), b., f.3; Sunday Silence - Air Deja Vu by Northern Taste
 - Dia de la Novia (Kent Desormeaux, 55.0 kg), ch., f.3; Sunday Silence - Potrizaris by Potrillazo
 - Eishin Tender (Koshiro Take, 55.0 kg), b., f.3; Eishin Sandy - Eishin Laramie by Time for a Change
 - Briton (Katsuharu Tanaka, 55.0 kg), ch., f.3; Sakura Laurel - Sweet Bamboo by Scan
- Margin: NK, NK, 1/2, 1-3/4, THE YUSHUN HIMBA only: ¥21,422,600,100, Attendance: 95,006



Pari-mutuel handle: ¥43,948,403,800

On-course: 7.3% Off-course: 92.7%

72nd running THE TOKYO YUSHUN (JAPANESE DERBY) (G1)

Tokyo Racecourse	May 29	Value of race: ¥342,790,000	3-Year-Olds, Entire Colts & Fillies
2,400m	Turf (firm)	2:23.3/10 (Course record 2:23.3/10)	18 Runners

Winner

- Deep Impact (Yutaka Take, 57.0 kg), b., c.3; Sunday Silence - Wind In Her Hair by Alzao
 O-Makoto Kaneko, T-Yasuo Ikee, B-Northern Farm, Winning money: ¥189,753,000
- Inti Raimi (Tetsuzo Sato, 57.0 kg), b., c. 3; Special Week - Andes Lady by Northern Taste
 - Six Sense (Hirofumi Shii, 57.0 kg), br., c.3; Sunday Silence - Daneskaya by Danehill
 - Admire Fuji (Yuichi Fukunaga, 57.0 kg), dk.b., c.3; Admire Vega - Admire Lapis by Be My Guest
 - Meiner Recolte (Hiroki Goto, 57.0 kg), b., c.3; Chief Bearhart - Miyagi Minoru by Tai Tehm
- Margin: 5, 2-1/2, 3/4, 3/4, THE TOKYO YUSHUN only: ¥32,856,360,800, Attendance: 140,143

