

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Köln, 8. Dezember 2014

WDR magazine »Sport Inside« reports possible links between the World Athletics Federations and Russian doping cases

In the WDR magazine »Sport Inside« (Today, 22.45 hrs. CET, WDR Television), the ARD Doping Editorial Group, which is based in the WDR (Westdeutscher Rundfunk), will reveal further details of the apparent Russian doping system, which also featured in the ARD documentary: "Top Secret: How Russia makes its winners", and was a topic on the ARD Sportschau.

In a secretly recorded video - as shown in the »Sportschau« on Sunday - a doping control of the currently suspended Russian 800-metre runner Yuliya Stepanova is to be seen. In this control all the relevant international standards were violated, because not only was advance notice given by telephone, but also the athlete was not accompanied to the toilet when providing urine sample. The company IDTM, on whose behalf the doping control officer had conducted the test, emphasized that all the control officers were regularly informed and that it would now check the allegations immediately.

In a further secret recording, the 800-metre bronze medalist at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Ekaterina Poistogova, talks about taking banned substances, for example, the anabolic steroid oxandrolone. When asked by the WDR, the athlete refused to comment.

In addition for the first time a link was made between payments from Russian marathon runner Lillya Shobukhova, which were reported in the ARD documentary "Top secret Doping: How Russia makes its Winners", and connections close to the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF). The payments of € 450,000 had been made, according to Shobukhova's own words, to a Russian athletics federation coach, in order to ensure her start in the 2012 London Olympics. It was only in April this year that Shobukhova was suspended on the basis of the blood values of samples taken between 2009 and 2011. Shobukhova told the WDR that it had subsequently come to a repayment of € 300,000 to her. The ARD documentary showed that this sum apparently was made with the knowledge of the Russian Athletics Federation President Valentin Balakhnichev via the "Black Tidings" company in Singapore. This company was liquidated shortly after the payment. Balakhnichev refused to answer specific questions about this procedure.

Now the IAAF confirms new WDR inquiries, according to which the owner of the former company "Black Tidings" in Singapore is also a business partner of Massata Papa Diack, an IAAF consultant and son of the IAAF President Lamine Diack. Massata Papa Diack also confirmed to the WDR that he had business links with the owner of the

former company "Black Tidings", for example, in joint consultancy work for the International Association of Athletics Federation. But he claimed he was not linked with the company "Black Tidings" itself, either as a partner or in an advisory capacity. The IAAF has already responded and announced that it would also have this connection checked by its own Ethics Committee.

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