

The so-called "mechanical doping" will be more serious than previously thought

Diário de Notícias,
Lisbon, January 27, 2017



Istvan Varjas, the Hungarian engineer considered the brains behind the invention of mechanical doping, said today he believes that professional cyclists have been using this form of doping since 1998.

In a segment of CBS's '60 Minutes' program, which airs on this Sunday (Jan 29, 2017), Varjas reveals that in

1998 he designed a motor to fit inside the frame of a bicycle, which was bought by an anonymous buyer for two million US dollars .

The agreement with the anonymous buyer also included a clause obliging the Hungarian engineer not to work on new models of engines, talk about them or sell them for ten years.

Varjas acknowledged that he thinks his 'creation' was used to cheat on cycling events but denied responsibility for the spread of mechanical doping.

In the same program, the American Greg LeMond, three times winner of the Tour de France, demanded more control by the entities responsible for cycling.

"I'm not going to rely on it until I figure out how to get the engine off the bike," Le Monde said. "I will not rely on any victory in the Tour de France."

In December, in an interview with French daily *Le Monde*, Varjas revealed that a major television investigation may (would) soon present more details on mechanical doping or 'technological fraud', as it is dubbed by the International Cyclist Union (UCI).

According to the Hungarian engineer, the investigation could be issued in January, with the French daily arguing that the new revelations could cause an earthquake as big as the Festina affair, the first known case of an organized doping scheme , which 'stopped' the Tour de France in 1998.