I **JOHN ALEXIS MARDAS** of 23 Kanari Street, Kolonaki, 10673 Athens, Greece make the following statement:

My activities at Apple Electronics Limited

- 1. My first job as a partner and director of Apple Electronics was to manufacture light machines similar to the one which I had developed for use on a previous Rolling Stones tour. The company bought a small property in Boston Place, Marylebone, for the purpose of manufacturing equipment. We started manufacturing these light machines in those premises. At the same time. I was given a large office in the Apple building in Savile Row.
- The whole idea of the workshop at Boston Place was to conduct research. The
 Beatles arranged for a US patent attorney, Alfred Crotti, to move to England. The
 idea was that he and I would discuss the development and patenting of electronic
 devices.
- 3. I invented a large number of electronic devices, none of which had anything to do with music of the business of the Beatles. I refer to an article in the *Daily Mail* dated 2nd November 1968 in which some of my inventions have been listed. It must be remembered that none of these had even been thought about by others at the time, although most of them are now in common use. For example, an electronic camera is now commonly used, as is the "memory phone" and what was then called "the composing typewriter" and is now known as voice recognition. All these products were invented by me and we were in the process of patenting most of them in the United States.
- 4. My research was, however, brought to an abrupt end when, in May 1968, John Lennon told me that I was to drop all further work on such research for and build a recording studio in the basement of the Savile Row building. John Lennon promised me that, once this was completed, I could go back to my electronics research.

- 5. I told John that, although I thought that I was capable of building a recording studio, the first step would have to be a design. It was agreed that I would construct a mock up recording studio at Boston Place with all the appropriate equipment, to see whether it was suitable for moving into the Savile Row premises.
- 6. I prepared the drawings and finished the design. We built a bread board to which we connected the equipment. It was a 72-track recording studio which worked well and was in my opinion what one might call "state of the art" at the time.
- 7. I stress that, at this time, I had never started to build a studio in Savile Row. I only went there occasionally because I had an office there on the second floor. I have never in my life been in the basement of the Savile Row building.
- 8. In summer of 1969, I took a two-week vacation in Greece with Cynthia (John Lennon's former wife) Patti Boyd, George Harrison's wife and Donovan Leitch. When I returned two weeks later at about 1 p.m. on a weekday, I found to my surprise that the building at Boston Place had been sealed with two padlocks. I broke the locks and went in. I thought that there had been a burglary. None of my engineers were there. I therefore went straight to the Savile Row offices. When I walked in, the receptionist told me that Allan Klein had fired all the staff of all the Apple companies. She told me that I had been fired as well. I asked for John Lennon. He was not there, so I telephoned him in Weybridge. I said that all the equipment was missing and that I had been told that I had been fired. John Lennon replied: "Bullshit, no one can fire you. You are not an employee, you are a partner."
- 9. Boston Place was ruined. They had removed all the equipment. I refused to have anything more to do with the venture.
- 10. At John Lennon's request, Allan Klein telephoned me. He told me that his job had been to clean out the whole of Apple Corporation. He said that the equipment which I had installed was now in the basement of Boston Place. I said that I wanted to have nothing more to do with it and I left Apple permanently.
- 11. The suggestion that I constructed a studio which was "unusable and of hopelessly poor quality" is a complete fabrication. I never got round to constructing a studio in Savile Row. I was designing and had actually finished a mock up studio in Boston

Place which, when ready, would be moved into the Savile Row premises. This was destroyed and the equipment taken away. What happened after I left is none of my concern.

Allegations made against me by others

- 12. Over the years, I became aware of a number of articles in newspapers which seriously defamed me. I usually only became so aware, quite by chance, because somebody had telephoned me in advance to warn me of what was coming. On each occasion that I so became aware, I instructed my solicitor to demand an apology and, if this was not forthcoming, to take proceedings. As I set out below, from 1993 I spent a lot of time in Greece. I was not therefore aware of what was being written in the English newspapers, nor indeed in any books which were published in England, unless I was told about them
- 13. I became aware of defamatory material in the following cases:
 - 13.1 An article in *The Observer* on 28th February 1988, which alleged that I was an international arms dealer. As result of my solicitors' intervention, this resulted in an apology published on 30th April 1989.
 - An article in *The People* dated 18th September 1988, entitled "Joan's Secret Lover" and an article in the same newspaper one week later entitled "She can't half pick 'em!". I instructed my solicitors to sue in relation to these articles. The newspaper did not seek to justify the claims made in the articles. The jury awarded me £75,000 in damages, which was a substantial amount in those days.
 - An article in *The Daily Mail* dated 11th June 2003, which made similar allegations to the ones which are the subject of this dispute. Proceedings were commenced and ultimately settled with the publication of an apology on 16th January 2004. I have been prohibited by the settlement agreement from revealing the financial terms of the settlement.

- 13.4 An article in *The Independent* on 14th June 2006, again containing not dissimilar allegations to those in the present publications. Following litigation, this resulted in an apology which was published on 22nd August 2006.
- 14. At this point, I shall deal with various allegations made by certain personsas to alleged promises by me to invent certain fantastical products. I have never promised nor discussed, let alone try to invent any of the following:
 - 14.1 an X-ray camera which could see through walls;
 - 14.2 a force field which would surround a building with coloured air so that no one could see in.
 - 14.3 a force field of compressed air which could stop anyone driving into one's car:
 - a house which could hover in the air suspended on an invisible beam;
 - 14.5 wall paper which could plug into a stereo system and operate as a "loudspeaker";
 - an artificial sun which was intended to hover over Baker Street and light up the sky during the gala opening of the Beatles clothes shop, the "Apple Boutique" on 4th December 1967.
 - 14.7 Magic paint which would make objects it was painted on invisible;
 - 14.8 Electrical paint which could be plugged into a wall and would light up the room;
 - 14.9 A flying saucer made from the V12 engines from George Harrison's Ferrari and John Lennon's Rolls Royce or
 - 14.10 A force field around Ringo Starr's drums that would isolate the drum sounds from the rest of the microphones in the studio. In this connection, I once had a discussion with John Lennon about this topic. I said that it was

possible, theoretically, to create an ultrasonic barrier generated by ultrasonic transfusers. This would prevent sound travelling over a certain field. I never suggested that I would make such a barrier.

- 15. Further, I deny any suggestion that I promised the Beatles in the presence of Liliane Lijn that I could levitate them using "electro magnetism" and also make them "disappear". For a start, I never met this lady in the presence of any of the Beatles and the suggestion that I could "levitate" anyone is obviously absurd.
- 16. The further suggestion which has been made, namely that I was made a shareholder or director of Apple Electronics Limited "as a result of these promises" is equally absurd, as is the suggestion that I was paid or entrusted with a considerable amount of money in order to produce these inventions. I was in fact paid a salary rising ultimately to £6,000 per annum and I refer to the letter from the Chief Accountant of Apple, dated 16 March 1970, to this effect.
- 17. I have never previously heard the expression "Mardas Gap".
- 18. On the other hand, there have been numerous articles which are complimentary about me in respectable magazines and newspapers. I believe that responsible journalists have recognised that the defamatory material which has appeared about me has been quite unfair. For example, Peter Doggett, the biographer of the Beatles, has publicly stated that I have been made a scapegoat for the problems encountered by the Beatles in their final years and that it was because of the chaotic situation at Apple that no one was able to make use of the work which I had carried out there.

Activities after leaving Apple

19. As soon as I left Apple, I received a number of proposals from various companies to work for them on a freelance basis. One was from Racal Electronics, one was from Pye, a subsidiary of Plessey and one, which I accepted, was from Shipton Automation. I worked for Shipton for two years, receiving compensation of £45,000, a flat and a car. I designed for Shipton a paging system for the Stock Exchange, with whom Shipton had a contract.

- 20. In 1972, I decided to leave Shipton and start my own company, Alcom Devices Limited, later called Alcom Limited. This company researched designed and manufactured electronics products. It was based in Edgware Road with a manufacturing facility in Park Royal. It rapidly obtained sales all over the world and was turning over between £3 million and £6 million per annum. Its customers included the Ministry of Defence, HM Customs & Excise and the German Ministry of Defence, all of whom asked me to design electronic equipment especially for them. In around 1974, I formed another company, Night Visions Systems Limited, which specialised in the manufacture of night vision products for sale to military customers throughout the world. This company was also very successful.
- 21. In around 1975 I then formed Armalite Limited, a company which armoured cars and manufactured bullet proof vests. he managing director of one of the leading German banks Jürgen Ponto was assassinated in 1977. Aldo Moro, the Italian prime minister, was assassinated in 1978. As a result of the former assassination, I was approach by the Bundeskriminalamt in Germany to supply armouring to manufacturers of German cars. This business was also extremely successful. I mention in passing that the Ministry of Defence published a video which had been shot at the military establishment in Bisley. This showed one of our cars being shot at with approximately 25 different varieties of weaponry. We had guests from all over the world and the car withstood the whole barrage of these attacks.
- 22. Alcom's customers included the governments of the following countries: United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Greece, France, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Spain, Morocco, South Africa, Iran, Singapore, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.
- 23. As a result of these connections, I developed personal friendships with the kings of Greece, Jordan, Spain, Morocco, and with the President of Egypt and the Prime Minister of Canada.
- 24. In 1992, I received a proposal from a major Hong Kong and worldwide electronics company, Hutchinson Wampoa and American Telegraph and Telephone ("AT and T") to become an equal partner with them in a new business, namely the setting up of a mobile telephone system in Greece. The name of the company was to be Hutchinson Hellas SA and we were each to own one-third of the company. In order

to understand the size of this venture, it is worth mentioning that, before we could even tender for the contract, the Greek Government required the company to deposit US\$ 180 million as a sign of good faith. Of this sum, I put up a bank guarantee in the sum of US\$50 million. It was necessary for me to return to Greece in order to prosecute this tender and as from 1992 I went to Greece more frequently. Unfortunately in the end nothing came of this, because I was afraid that my investment might be diluted and Hutchinson refused to guarantee my proportion of the joint company. I then however got involved in other businesses in Greece. That is how I finally decided to return to Greece definitively in 1997, after 33 years in the United Kingdom.

The Maharishi

- 25. In early 1968 I received a written note from Apple Corps that the Beatles, who were in India attending the Maharishi's Ashram in Rishikesh in the Himalayan foothills, wanted me to join them forthwith. The next day, I got on a plane and flew to India. When I arrived, John Lennon was there with his wife, Cynthia, George Harrison was there with his wife, Patti Boyd and there were other people from the pop music world, including Mike Love of the Beach Boys. Neither Paul McCartney nor Ringo Starr were there. Nor for that matter were Donovan, Mia Farrow or her sister Prudence. Neither Paul nor Ringo joined the group at any time that I was there. I have never met Mia Farrow.
- 26. I was in Rishikesh for several months. Every afternoon, the Maharishi would give us lectures and I listened to them with interest. Frankly, there was very little else to do there. I should also mention that no alcohol was permitted in the Ashram, let alone drugs, and, so far as I was aware, nobody consumed either of these. Further, we were not allowed to go out of the Ashram.
- 27. There came a point where the Maharishi approached me. He told me that he had had a discussion with the Beatles about setting up a station to broadcast his teachings round the world. He asked me whether this was a good idea. I said that it was technically possible if that was what he wanted to do. That was the end of our conversation.

- 28. About three to four months after I had arrived at the retreat, we were attending a lecture given by the Maharishi. Also present was an American teacher, whose name I now know to have been Rosalyn Bonas. I remember the Maharishi saying that this lady had an "iceberg" in her brain and was unable to understand what he was saying. In the presence of everyone there, he told her that she should come to his villa after the lecture for private tuition.
- 29. On the evening of the following day or the day after (I do not remember which) John Lennon and I were sitting outside John Lennon's little house. The teacher came up to us and told us that the Maharishi had made sexual advances to her while she was in his villa. She also told us that, despite the fact that we were all supposed to be strictly vegetarian, the Maharishi had offered her chicken to eat. She told us that she had been invited back to the Maharishi's villa the next evening.
- 30. During the next evening, John Lennon, George Harrison and I were curious and went to the window of the Maharishi's villa at the time that the nurse was supposed to be there. We looked inside and saw that the Maharishi was trying to hug the teacher. Both of them were fully clothed.
- 31. All of us were very upset about what had seen. We had complete confidence and trust in the Maharishi and this confidence had now been severely dented.
- 32. On the next morning, John Lennon and I went to see the Maharishi about what had happened. John was our spokesman. He asked the Maharishi to explain himself. I remember the exact words that the Maharishi used when answering, namely: "I am only human". John said that he was disgusted with what had happened.
- 33. The Beatles had to go back to London anyway because there was a contract which required them to record there. I also know for a fact, because they told me, that both Cynthia Lennon and Patti Boyd were getting bored and wanted to leave anyway. We needed the Maharishi's assistance to leave, because of the isolated nature of the Ashram. He tried to persuade us to stay, no doubt because of publicity and the money which the attendance of the Beatles was producing. In the end, however, we did leave a few days later. We left for New Delhi, where John and George gave a press conference. At the press conference, John told the press what he thought

about the Maharishi. It was mainly negative. By this time he had also written a song

called "Sexy Sadie", which was a thinly veiled reference to the Maharishi's activities.

34. I wish to make it clear, that, until the issues with the American teacher, I was totally

neutral about the Maharishi. I meditated, I followed all his lessons and I had private

discussions with him, which were all of a friendly nature. It is simply untrue that I was

in any way the catalyst for John and George falling out the Maharishi. There is also

no truth whatsoever in the suggestion that I was concerned about the influence

which the Maharishi had over the Beatles. Quite the contrary: I was pleased with the

influence which the Maharishi had over the Beatles, because he managed to wean

them off their drug addiction.

35. As for the allegation that, had it not been for their break up from the Maharishi, the

Beatles would have been more prolific in their creative output and remained as a

group for longer. I am not an expert musician, but I do note that some of the best

music ever composed by them was composed after their return from the Ashram, for

example their most famous song, "Imagine" and "Hey Jude".

Signed	
--------	--

JOHN ALEXIS MARDAS

Dated:

February 2010