27/4/2000

First Quarter 2000 Trading Statement

Trading for the year to date has been satisfactory with operating profit ahead of last year and in line with our expectations.

The pattern of trading is similar to that experienced in the latter part of 1999 and we have made further progress in a number of areas. Within Deluxe, film processing has had an excellent start to the year assisted by strong film releases, particularly in North America. However video duplication is still not performing at the required levels and a substantial restructuring of the US business is under way, partly in anticipation of reducing VHS volumes over time. We completed our initial investment in DVD by acquiring the Pioneer plant in California and are actively seeking further DVD related opportunities. Gaming has had particularly good results with both Mecca and Grosvenor continuing the favourable trends shown last year. The recent acquisition of the Park Tower casino will add further strength to our representation in the important London market. The Hard Rock like for like sales trend continues to improve and results are ahead of last year, reflecting the operational improvements initiated in the second half of 1999. Within Holidays, overall bookings are ahead of last year, with the exception of Butlins. Warner and Oasis have traded well in the year to date. Tom Cobleigh recorded positive like for like sales.

We are continuing to refocus the Group following the disposals announced in the last six months. In particular, we remain hopeful of a sale of our 50% holding in Universal Studios Escape. The 10% share buyback has been completed and we will seek authority at the Annual General Meeting to purchase up to a further 15%.

- Ends -

Enquiries:
The Rank Group Plc
Kate Ellis-Jones, Investor Relations 020 7535 8031

Press Enquiries:
The Maitland Consultancy
Laura Frost 020 7379 5151