

Excerpt



Nick Leeson returns to Singapore to face charges

9 months after fleeing, Leeson is back

[SINGAPORE] Nick Leeson, the 28-year-old trader who caused the collapse of Britain's oldest bank Barings, was brought back to Singapore yesterday, following extradition by the German government, to face 11 charges of forgery.

Exactly nine months after fleeing Singapore – leaving behind losses of US\$1.6 billion (S\$2.2 billion) from reckless gambles on Nikkei and Japanese government bond futures – Leeson came through the Customs gate at Changi airport's Terminal One, looking pale and weary after a twelve-and-a-half-hour flight from Frankfurt.

Dressed in an Adidas outfit of green sweatshirt, tracksuit and sneakers, and wearing a reversed baseball cap, Leeson was surrounded by more than

a dozen policemen led by airport police commander Jarmal Singh. Also with him were camera crew who had succeeded in catching the same flight.

Leeson appeared surprised to be met by a huge mob of more than 150 journalists and cameramen who have flocked here to cover his trial.

"Give us a smile." "How do you plan to plead?" "Say something," they shouted, hoping to elicit some response from the man who has spent almost nine months in a Frankfurt jail, first fighting extradition to Singapore, then reversing his position and apologising for the things he said about Singapore's justice system.

But apart from a weak smile and some face contortions, Leeson remained silent as he was whisked away to a waiting

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SEPTEMBER 13, 1995

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