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# Marines provide U.N. aid

☐ GIs offer assistance to evacuating peacekeepers in Somalia's chaos.

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The U.S. Marines came back to the beaches of Mogadishu Monday, returning to protect the last U.N. peacekeepers evacuating from Somalia's chaos.

More than two years after their first landing the Marines came ashore again, this time to mop up the remains of a humanitarian mission that fed tens of thousands of starving Somalis but failed to bring stability.

A vanguard force of about

150 Marines landed by helicopter and Helicat air cushion vessels on a beach at the city's seaside airport, where they were setting up a command headquarters and landing routes for about 2,000 other Marines and soldiers from Italy.

U.S. commanders would not say when the rest of the troops would come ashore. The airport and nearby sea port are controlled by U.N.

peacekeeping forces. Meanwhile, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Scott Campbell said the Marines who went ashore Monday were part of a reconnaissance mission. He said the main withdrawal operation had not yet begun.

Mogadishu was calm Monday, a day after warring Somali militias battled outside the main gate of the airport.

Commanders of the seven-nation U.S.-led forces do not expect a direct confrontation with Somali militia. Instead, the biggest threat may be from stray bullets, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades fired by the rival militias.

Stray rounds fell at the air-

port Sunday.

"Yesterday was a typical Somalia day, a little shooting, but it wasn't aimed at us," said Army Col. John Latimer, who has been in Mogadishu for five weeks as head of a military advance ground team.

Shots could be heard, but fewer stray rounds appeared to be striking near U.S. and U.N. positions.

## Risky financial wager guts renowned investment firm

**□** Authorities search for British trader whose gamble on the Tokyo stock market results in collapse.

LONDON (AP) — Court-appointed salvagers swarmed into Britain's oldest investment bank Monday to evaluate the remaining assets of Barings PLC after a brash 28-year-old trader ruined it by gambling on Tokyo stock prices.

The failure of Barings jolted Asian financial markets, sent the British pound tumbling against other currencies, contributed to a stiff late-afternoon fall in U.S. stock prices and sent rumors flying that the bank's losses could grow as the details of the fiasco emerge.

Still, most big stock exchanges weathered

The repercussions have been really very mod-

est," Bank of England Governor Eddie George told a news conference after the London Stock Exchange closed with a loss of less than half a percentage point in its key barometer, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index.

Barings' failure was blamed on Nick Leeson, a Briton who worked for Barings in Singapore and accumulated \$7 billion worth of risky investments known as stock-index futures contracts, linked to

the performance of Japan's stock market. Leeson bet the Nikkei 225 stock index, the main market barometer in Japan, would rise. It fell instead.

Then like a poker player deep in the hole, Leeson apparently began doubling up his bets in hopes of recouping. The tactic cost Barings hundreds of millions of dollars, forced it to go under the control of outside accountants, and illustrated the pitfalls of far-flung investing in the global economy.



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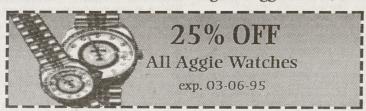
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