

Friday, November 17

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1869:** The Suez Canal was opened to navigation after more than 10 years under construction

1800: The U.S. Congress first met in the new capital city of Washington

1958: The civilian government of Sudan was overthrown in a military coup

1986: Georges Besse, managing director of the French car manufacturer Renault, was shot dead in Paris by "Action Directe" terrorists

2000: Japan's whaling fleet defied international protests and set sail for the Antarctic despite a hunting ban in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary