ON THIS DAY

▲ **2007:** Passport checks were scrapped as nine new countries joined the 15-nation Schengen Zone, allowing people to move more freely across borders in most of Europe

1879: Brutal Soviet dictator Josef Stalin was born

1958: Charles de Gaulle was elected president of France

1968: Apollo 8 was launched from Cape Kennedy to carry out the first manned flight around the moon

2008: The Taj Mahal Palace and Oberoi Trident hotels in Mumbai reopened less than a month after the terror attacks that killed 173 people

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