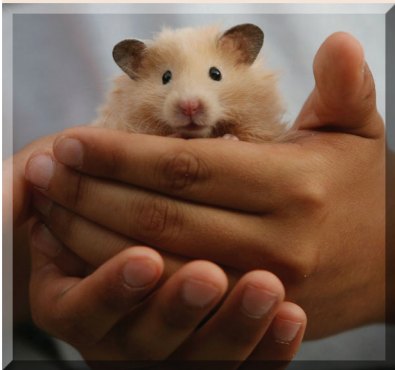


Monday, March 8

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2008: Vietnam banned ownership of pet hamsters, saying they were a potential source of disease**

1921: Spanish Prime Minister Eduardo Dato was assassinated by anarchists near his home in Madrid

1950: The Soviet Union claimed to be in possession of the atomic bomb

1965: The first U.S. combat troops arrived in Vietnam as 3,500 Marines landed at China Beach to defend the American air base at Da Nang

2009: Two British soldiers were shot dead in an attack at an army base in Northern Ireland, the first such murders since 1997