ON THIS DAY

▲ **2008:** Cuban hurdler Dayron Robles set a new world record of 12.87 seconds for the 110m hurdles at a meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic

1667: The world's first successful blood transfusion, using blood from a sheep, was carried out in France

1898: The Philippines declared independence from Spain

1991: The citizens of Leningrad voted to change the city's name back to its pre-revolutionary title of St Petersburg

2006: The European Union formally opened accession talks with Turkey, despite ongoing objections from Cyprus

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