

**Thursday, December 30**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **2008:** Scientists in China said they had found what could be the world's largest dinosaur fossil site, a 300m-long pit in the province of Shandong containing 7,600 dinosaur bones

**1880:** The Transvaal, under Paul Kruger, declared itself a republic

**1916:** The Siberian mystic Rasputin, a favourite of Tsarina Alexandra, was murdered by Russian nobles

**1997:** South Africa and China signed a pact establishing diplomatic relations

**2009:** Seven CIA agents were killed by a suicide bomb attack on a U.S. military base in the Afghan province of Khost, a hotbed of Taliban activity