

A sepia-toned portrait of Samora Machel, President of Mozambique. He is a Black man with a full beard and mustache, looking slightly upwards and to the right. He is wearing a military-style uniform with epaulettes. The text 'Today in History' is overlaid in white at the bottom of the image.

Today in History

October 19, 1986

▲ **President Samora Machel of Mozambique and 33 others died in a plane crash near South Africa's border. Pilot error was blamed, but conspiracy theories persist**

1872: The largest nugget of gold ever found, weighing 82.11kg, was found in New South Wales, Australia

1954: Britain and Egypt signed a new Suez Canal pact, calling for withdrawal of British troops from the canal zone within 20 months

1970: BP announced the first major oil find in the North Sea

2004: Margaret Hassan, director of CARE International in Iraq, was abducted in Baghdad and executed