



Today in History

December 31, 1999

▲ Russian president Boris Yeltsin stunned the world by announcing his immediate resignation and appointing premier Vladimir Putin as acting president

1869: Eminent French painter and sculptor Henri Matisse was born

1879: U.S. inventor Thomas Edison gave the first public demonstration of an electric incandescent lamp

1994: A four-month ceasefire was agreed in Bosnia, on the 1,000th day of the bitter Serb siege of Sarajevo

1994: The World Trade Organisation came into being at midnight, succeeding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade