

A close-up portrait of Vladimir Putin, looking slightly to the left with a serious expression. He has short, light brown hair and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt.

Today in History

August 9, 1999

▲ **Former KGB officer Vladimir Putin was named acting prime minister of Russia after President Boris Yeltsin sacked his fourth premier in 17 months**

1965: Singapore was expelled from Malaysia, becoming the only country to date to gain independence unwillingly

2004: The world's deepest vertical drop, measuring 516m, was found in Croatia's Velebit mountains

2007: A blaze broke out at the famous Cinecitta film studios in Rome, destroying a hangar storing film sets

2008: A suspected outbreak of rabies transmitted by vampire bats killed over 38 Warao Indians in Venezuela