



## Today in History

*October 26, 1977*

▲ The world's last natural case of smallpox was recorded in Somalia. Vaccination wiped out the disease, which killed up to 500 million people in the 20th century alone

**1905:** Norway gained independence from Sweden following a plebiscite

**1967:** Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was formally crowned Shah of Iran on his 48th birthday, having deferred his coronation for 26 years

**1998:** Ecuador and Peru signed a peace treaty that ended years of conflict over their ill-defined borders

**2002:** Russian forces stormed a Moscow theatre where 50 Chechen rebels were holding 700 hostages