



# Today in History

*December 15, 2000*

▲ The last reactor at Chernobyl was officially shut down, almost 15 years after an explosion spread a radioactive cloud over Europe in the world's worst nuclear disaster

**1675:** Dutch master Jan Vermeer, one of the great painters of the Dutch golden age, died

**1973:** John Paul Getty III was freed five months after his grandfather paid a ransom of \$2.8m

**1993:** Britain and Ireland's prime ministers signed a declaration designed to bring peace to Northern Ireland

**1993:** A Paris court said Yves St Laurent was not permitted to use the name Champagne for a perfume