

## Today in History, July 30

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev greets President Ford in Vladivostok, 1974. **D. H. Kennerly**

The last stage of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a forerunner to the OSCE, opened in Helsinki 38 years ago today, on July 30, 1975. The Conference's final declaration was signed by 35 countries, including the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and was seen as a major step towards the achievement of disarmament in Europe. The U.S. and the Soviet Union were represented at the talks by Presidents Gerald Ford and Leonid Brezhnev.

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