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Hillary and I join with all of you in commemorating this milestone and pledge ourselves anew to protecting the right to choose.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President recorded these remarks on January 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on the Apprehension of Goran Jelisic

January 22, 1998

I welcome the news that Goran Jelisic has been detained by SFOR forces, led by American units, in the Republika Srpska city of Bijelina. He is now being transported to The Hague for trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Jelisic was indicted by the Tribunal in 1995 for 56 counts of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The SFOR forces acted according to their rules of engagement, which authorize the apprehension of indicted war criminals when encountered in the course of their duties. This was the third such apprehension by SFOR forces, following actions last July and December that resulted in the capture of four indictees and the death of a fifth.

I congratulate the SFOR troops who participated in this effort. The United States continues to support fully the work of the Tribunal to bring indicted war criminals to justice. Jelisic will be the 23rd of 78 indictees brought to The Hague for trial. It is important to recall that most of these were delivered in the last 7 months by the parties themselves. We intend to sustain political and economic pressure to assure continued compliance with the Dayton accords.

We must continue this progress. Today, I call again on all parties to the Dayton accords to fulfill their obligations to bring all indicted war criminals to justice. Carrying out these commitments is essential for advancing the work of reconciliation in Bosnia.

Statement on Receiving the Interim Report of the Secretary of State's Special Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad

January 23, 1998

I welcome the report of the Committee, which my administration established in November 1996 to advise us on means to combat religious persecution and intolerance abroad.

I am pleased that the Committee has recognized the considerable efforts we have already made to raise the profile of these issues and invigorate our advocacy, and we will carefully study the Committee's recommendations on how we can do more.

This distinguished group of Americans is playing a critical role in our effort to promote religious freedom abroad, and we look forward to a continued and close collaboration as the Committee prepares its final report in the months to come.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 17

In the afternoon, the President gave testimony by deposition in the law offices of attorney Robert S. Bennett.

January 20

In the evening, the President met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel in the Oval Office.

January 21

The President announced his intention to appoint Stephen B. Hand as member and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.