industries and the extension of the Internet into more Canadian communities. Along similar lines is *PaddyNet*, a World-Wide Web site dedicated to the dissemination of Irish voices and perspectives.[27] Numerous other similar examples could be cited as well.[28] The intent of these policies appears to be to provide the nation with financial and technological life-support systems so that it will survive into the Internet environment.

A second policy response among liberal-democratic regimes has been tentative steps towards forming "cultural alliances" in order to build up widespread support for regulations and protections of culture in trade regime negotiations. For example, in July 1998, cultural ministers from several countries (with the notable exception of the United States) met to discuss strategies to form an international alliance of cultural ministries, and have plans to meet in subsequent years as well.[29] Here, the efforts are directed in a more conventional way towards building regulatory fences to control communication flows. The cultural alliances are the novel aspect, though one whose prospects appear dim in the face of more powerful alliances oriented in precisely the opposite direction. Opening the market for trade in "cultural products" has been the focus of several recent trade negotiations and a major concern of United States' trade policy.

Found online at http://www.pch.gc.ca/mindep/misc/millenium/e-9.html
[27] www.paddynet.com
[28] See, for example, "France's Chirac Pledges Computer, Literacy Drive," <u>CNN Online</u>, (March 10, 1997); "French Launch Cyberspace War Against English," <u>London Times</u>, (April 14, 1997); and Victoria Shannon, "Online Via the French Connection: It Takes a Global Village," <u>Washington Post</u>, (June 16, 1997).
[29] See "Culture Forum Eyes CNN Rival," <u>The Toronto Star</u>, (July 1, 1998). The cultural ministers also discussed plans to create a global news organization to rival CNN.