quality-produced "television" programs from around the world are made available over the World-Wide Web, though obviously varying in content and sophistication. Radio broadcasts are following a parallel trajectory. Should the "integration" of media continue to the point that the Web subsumes television and radio entirely (a realistic prospect), the point of continuing broadcasting regulations would seem negligible. The public broadcaster would be but a whisper in an ocean of streams.

From the perspective of this collective image, then, the primary "threat" that the Internet poses is its potential undermining of collective national identities. The primary object of security is presumed to be "the nation" – the imagined community of people who share a distinct language or ethnicity. Of the four collective images under study here, this collective image is the one with the least visible support. Several countries (or mini states and dependencies within these countries), such as Canada, France, Iran, Iraq, Germany, Vietnam, China, Syria, and Myanmar have made official pronouncements that showed a sense of concern about threats to cultural identity in the Internet environment.[23] With some, such as Canada and France for example, the sense of concern seems clearly centered on national and cultural identity as traditionally understood. In others, however,

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[23] See "Syria's on Net, and on Guard," Wired News (10 July 1999). A spokesman for the Syrian Computer Society said that "Our problem is that we are a traditional society and we have to know if there is something that cannot fit with our society." Ta Ba Hung, Vietnamese Minister of Science, Technology, and Environment, said that "information flow might affect badly the cultural identity of the nation." See Keith R. Richburg, "Future Shock: Surfing the Net in Vietnam," Washington Post, (November 19, 1995). For Iran, see Neil MacFarquhar, "With Mixed Feelings, Iran Turns to the Internet," New York Times, October 4, 1996). For an excellent overview of communications regulation in Canada in the interests of protecting cultural sovereignty, see Marc Raboy, "Cultural Sovereignty, Public Participation, and Democratization of the Public Sphere: The Canadian Debate on the New Information Infrastructure," Paper delivered to the National and International Initiatives for Information Infrastructure symposium, January 25-27, 1996, Harvard University, Cambridge Mass. USA.