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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/19963 (22) International Filing Date: 30 October 1997 (30.10.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/769,142 18 December 1996 (18.12.96) US (71) Applicant: BELLSOUTH CORPORATION [US/US]; 1155 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309 (US). (72) Inventor: IRBY, Comer, Edward; 4688 Amberwood Trail, Marietta, GA 30062 (US). (74) Agents: PETTY, Scott, W. et al.; Jones & Askew, LLP, 37th floor, 191 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30303 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATING MESSAGES VIA A FORWARD OVERHEAD CONTROL CHANNEL**(57) Abstract**

A system for communicating multiple page messages or pages via a forward overhead control channel (FOCC) of a cellular network control channel to a cellular-compatible receiving device and combining the data obtained from each received page to form an aggregate message comprising a data sequence. A cellular communications device operating in a normal state responds to a page received via the FOCC by comparing the received page to one or more masks maintained in its memory. If the received page contains a predetermined characteristic and matches a corresponding mask maintained by the receiving device, then it responds by transitioning from a normal state to a receive device identifier state. In the receive device identifier state, the cellular communications device monitors the FOCC for a page having a special identifier assigned to that device. Each received page is compared to a mask corresponding to the special identifier and maintained in memory of the selected device. In response to a match, the cellular communications device transitions from the receive device identifier state to a receive data state and operates to monitor the FOCC for pages containing commands. In the receive data state, the cellular communications device can respond to pages containing commands by accepting data values for each received command page and combining the data values to form a data sequence.