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(54) Title: TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**(57) Abstract**

A mail system is disclosed which is accessible by a caller using an external first communications link. The system includes a plurality of client mail accounts, each client mail account being associated with a client, means for receiving and storing messages in said client accounts, means for identifying and verifying a client, and means for retrieving messages from a client account. The mail system may also include means for establishing a second communications link from the mail systems, means for connecting a caller to the second link and means for maintaining the first link, upon the termination of the second link.

