

NOTE: Contents of this note are tentative.

SUBJ: Elimination of the use of a sense in command arguments lists.

It is proposed that the use of the sense should be eliminated in the interpretation of command lists. Instead, the supervisor should maintain a count, for each word, of the number of words in the current command buffer.

Modification of several supervisor entries would be required; certain additional modifications are also suggested.

Let n be the number of words (command name plus arguments) in a specified command list, with n not greater than 20. Then

1. The call

```
TSX  SETCOM,4
PZE  BUFB
```

should cause $n+1$ words to be transmitted to the buffer BUFB. The first word would contain n in the address. The next n words would be the current contents of the user's command buffer.

2. The call

```
TSX  MARGEN,4
PZE  An
```

would expect the following format:

```
An  PZE  n
      ECI  1,NAME
      ECI  1,ARG1
      ECI  1,ARGn-1
```

The command name and arguments should be transmitted to the user's command buffer; the supervisor should then transfer control to the command program NAME.

3. The call

```
TSX  SETCLS,4
PZE  An, n
```

would expect a format like that described for MARGEN; the n th command chain buffer would be set according to the $n+1$ words starting with An.

4. The call

```
TSX  SETCLS,4
PZE  BUFB, n
```

would transmit the $n+1$ words of the n th command chain buffer to the buffer BUFB, with BUFB containing n .