- 15 -

1   101-104 describe actions occurring in the TCU environment.
        In block 100, the MCP calls the
    TCU_EXCHANGE_FEATURES interface with the parameters as
    indicated. The exchange information is transferred to
5   the TCU via the Hardware Support For Function Calls 14
    and the path 15 (Figure 1). The illustrated set up of
    parameters was discussed above with respect to Figure 2.
    The LASTCALL parameter bit is set in the least significant
    bit of PARAM2 as indicated. Dotted arrow 106 indicates
10 the MCP to TCU communication path 14 and 15 (Figure 1).
        In block 101 the TCU microcode receives the MCP
    data which is processed as indicated in the blocks
    102-104. In blocks 103b and 104b an ERROR RESULT may
    be bit set as indicated, or in block 104a a NORMAL RESULT
15 may be bit set as indicated. The RESULT word
    TCU_FEATURE_WORD<N> is returned to MCP as indicated by
    dotted arrow 107 at the bottom of Figure 3(a) and the
    top of Figure 3(b). The TCU to MCP communication is
    effected along communication path 15 (Figure 1).
20   With continued reference to Figure 3(b), in blocks
    110 and 111 the MCP either verifies that all of its
    required features are supported by the TCU microcode
    or detects unsupported features and deadstops the system.
    In block 112, a global feature list is established and
25 in blocks 113 and 114, preparation is made for additional
    calls or termination of the process. Block 114 returns
    to block 100 of Figure 3(a) utilizing the label START.
        The specific descriptions with respect to Figures
    1-3 above were provided with respect to the specific
30 MCP and TCU environments. A more generic description
    of the invention is now provided in terms of the OS and
    SPP environments. The following is a prototype of the
    generic function.