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FAIRCHILD INDONESIA

INDOC, the Indonesian Documentation and Information Center (Box 11250, 2301 EG Leiden, Netherlands) has published an update of its May, 1981 book, **Indonesian Workers and their Right to Organize**. The update includes the following report, based on stories in **Merdeka, Kompas, Indonesian Observer, and Sinar Harapan**:

After a series of actions beginning in early 1981 concerning wage rises and social insurance, one thousand workers from the electronics factory, PT FAIRCHILD, East Jakarta, went on strike on 20 May 1981 in protest at employer interference with trade union rights. The employer demanded the union's dissolution, replacement of the board, and election of a new board more to the employer's liking. On 25 May, 52 workers were dismissed. Most of them either supported the union which had been set up on April 4 in the FBSI building, or were members of its board.

At the end of July, the Central Committee for the Settlement of Labour Disputes (P4P) recommended the re-employment of the 52 who had been sacked, and the payment of full wages during their suspension, plus the special annual bonus. The decision was reached because of lack of proof that the workers had been guilty of inflicting damage and inciting co-workers, as

had been charged by Fairchild. By 23 August 1981, 28 of these workers had not yet been reinstated: the employer had appealed to the Minister of Manpower to revoke the P4P decision.

The secretary of the central executive board of the Electronics Workers Union, Sarmin, said that 90% of the 4,800 Fairchild workers are women, earning Rp. 750/day (US\$1.12) and admitted that "after working at the Fairchild factory for some time they are now suffering eye troubles."