

---

# GLOBAL ELECTRONICS INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

No. 4

September-October, 1980

---

## PHILIPPINE STRIKES

Workers at the two biggest integrated circuit assembly subcontractors in the Philippines, Stanford Microsystems (SMI) and Dynetics, staged strikes earlier this year. The Dynetics workers walked off the job for one day on May 16 and a number of the strikers were arrested. Strikes are illegal in the Philippines electronics industry.

SMI was shut down for three days (May 29-June 1) when some 7,500 workers (75% of the workforce) at all three Manila plants went out on strike. They were protesting the abuses of Tony Odtohan, a supervisor in an assembly area at the Ugong, Pasig, plant. On May 20, he reportedly scolded aloud the women assemblers for letting quality suffer. "You are all uneducated and uncivilized," he allegedly shouted.

The workers in his area, IC-5, petitioned the management to have him replaced. When management ignored their demand, they went to the Ministry

of Labor and Employment (MOLE), which also brushed them aside. Then, on May 27, the IC-5 workers came to work wearing red t-shirts and red ribbons to show their determination to be heard.

Two days later, on May 29, the Stanford League of Unions (SLU) issued a strike call, to begin on the third shift. The workers walked out and immediately management called in the Metrocom police to protect company property. Some strikers formed picket lines at the gates, while others went to the pick-up points for employee buses to encourage fellow workers to join the strike.

On June 4, management agreed to the SLU's demands to transfer Odtohan to a position where he would not be bossing other workers, and to reinstate one worker who was fired for her role in the strike. The workers at Stanford have scored a small, but significant victory.