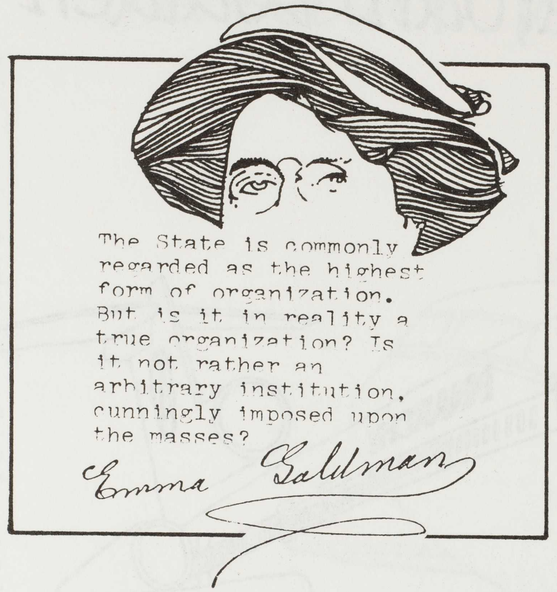
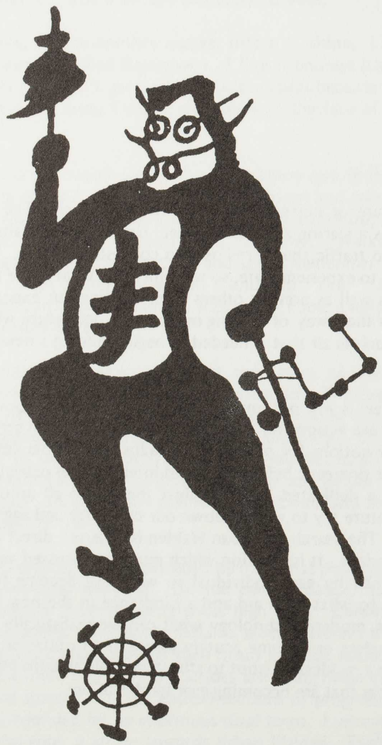
poland

(Continued from page 3)

On the other side, the preferred scenario is less clear. The Soviets probably want some trade between the two blocs, but they probably do not want the size of the trade to become too great. They want some Western goods but they dislike Western dominance (of course if Western Europe is dependent on the Soviets for energy, other trade links will be seen as less threatening from Moscow).

Let us assume that roughly the same political configuration stays in place. Assume that there is, for example, no invasion by Soviet troops, or major repression which would compromise the West Germans. The American government has to use this as an opportunity to try to recreate a bipolar mentality. A number of options are available including increased militarization, trade sanction, secondary boycotts, and decreased scientific and technical contact. This in fact points the way to action, not the lofty statements on Polish freedom. One should move against militarization or the type of isolation envisioned by policy-makers, and against widening the level and purview of the conflict. We oppose the use of the events in Poland as a pretext for expanding the military, continuing draft registration, or reintroducing the draft.





Embracing the Year of the Dog

January 25 marked the beginning of the Chinese lunar new year, and with February 1 we find ourselves launched fully into the Year of the Dog 1982 (or year 4681 by the Chinese calendar).

For political activists it will be a time of turmoil -- but also, of course, a period of great opportunity, when each of us will experience multiple changes of considerable intensity. The trick will be to understand and meet the demands of the time and situation.

According to *I Ching* (or the Chinese ancient Book of Changes) 1982 will be a year of individual and collective ferment, and not a time of easy gain. It is predicted that much turmoil initiated in 1981 will ripen and burst forth. Polarization, dissonance and disaffection will abound. The contemporary Taoist scholar Khigh Alx Dhiegh has predicted great struggles between political powers in the United States, and indicates that collective groups and minorities "will experience deprivations economically, legislatively, empathetically" and there will be hardships in basic societal communication.

To help build a process of benefit to self and society, the reading of *I Ching* suggests we must meet all challenges with inordinate courage and through daring and innovative application of the cardinal virtues: understanding the origins, receptiveness, flexibility, patience, and direct action. For '82, develop one's skills in perceiving and then hold to the Inner Truth of one's rock-bottom nature. The way to be constant is to change according to circumstance. The quality of the water element will rule the Year of the Dog: learn when to fill the lower places, when to be soft and and when to rush forward to extinguish the fire and wear down the hardest substances. Even a time of danger can lead to growth and human enlightenment.

For El Salvador and You

The crime rolls on,
Unchecked.
The criminals roll on,
A blind, cold, brutal force.
The cries of children rise . . .
Absurd, this outside force
That carries off some profit
small
And not much needed
Really
Just a habit
Really
Just the habit of the dominating male
Who beats his wife
Who treats his children as a threat
Who works his slaves to get his shit-work done.

The USA
This force that profits from the slave
No matter whether black or brown or grey at "home"
(the red ignored)
Or faceless peasant of El Salvador
Left finally decapitated at a dusty village pass . . .
This force,
The USA,
Supports the cannibal elite,
Sees to it that the best among a country's people
Fall
To death-squads, war, "legitimate" police, or hunger
Unrelieved . . .
And, having fostered violence
Where the vicious and the brutal
Rise,
Then wonders
(Open you eyes if you would more than wonder!)
Why another vicious, brutal, "unamerican" regime
Authoritarian of left or right
Emerges from the slime.

At Nuremberg the ghosts of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau,
Warsaw Others So many others
Rose to speak:

"You are responsible if you just stand by,
Wondering."

THE CHRISTIE FILE, by Stuart Christie.
Partisan Press/Cienfuegos. 370 pages. $9.95.

Stuart Christie's memoirs of his "notorious" life as a young anarchist in Britain and on the continent makes for light but informative reading. It is in brief a tale of just how much trouble you can get into with "the authorities" if you aren't careful how you think -- or how you express those thoughts in word and deed.

Anyone who has dealt with the police or the feds knows they always prefer any easy mark to a real criminal. It allows for longer coffee breaks and steady praise for seemingly diligent attention to duty.

As Christie has acknowledged, his first mistake was (ineptly, inattentively) transporting explosives into Spain to blow up Franco — and then getting caught in the process. His second was to beome the object of too much attention by Britain's gutter press and thus an easy shot for constant harrassment by that nation's political police. The harrassing continues: Mrs. Christie was arrested in West Germany in 1981 and charged with a fire-bombing that took place there eleven years ago.

His book is largely a record of these misadventures, though in asides, the reader will pick up a lot of curious details about life in one part of the European libertarian left. The reader will also pick up background information on the founding of Christie's two best efforts: the Anarchist Black Cross (to help political prisoners) and Cienfuegos Press, one of the best anarchist publishing efforts in the world.

The book's failing is in general interest; it is simply too long for the material covered. Christie isn't a fine professional writer and therefore does not bring forth adequate perceptions or give form to his reflections. It reads with a hurried, what-the-hell tone. It is a book for dedicated anarchists only, who love each other no matter what comes to pass.

Patrick Patrin

Conference Set for May '82

The Anarchists of the Mid-Atlantic region are calling a two-day symposium-conference for D.C. or a neighboring community for May 15 and 16, 1982. The gathering will focus on workplace, anarcho-feminist, environmental, and community issues. Persons interested in attending or helping to organize this event should contact Anarchist Association of the Americas by way of P.O. Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

The symposium-conference is intended for all anarchists and anarcho-syndicalists in the region and has been initiated by the eight collectives and groups of AAA: "Emancipation" Collective, Anarchitecture, Zim Bob Graphics, Kronstadt Books, Merry Sage Collective, Eastern Panhandle Anarchist Group 1 (West Virginia), Research Group 1 (Baltimore), and Southern Maryland Anarchist Coalition (St. Mary's City, MD).