I. The Chicago Anti-Imperialist Collective views imperialism as inherent in the expansionist nature of monopoly capitalism, and anti-imperialist work as an essential aspect of the class struggle. CAIC's primary goal has been to further the class struggle in the U.S. by educating people about the nature of U.S. imperialism. We believe that developing the class consciousness necessary for anti-imperialist work will promote actions based on a class analysis, and that therefore those actions will advance the struggle. An important part of our effort is to integrate the struggle in this country with an international perspective. We intend to work as a small group in order to develop our ideology and personal strengths and to affiliate with a national group such as NAAIC to be more effective in our common struggle.

We feel that racism and sexism are conflicts being used by the ruling class to divide us, and we view these conflicts as problems we must work out together in both our theory and practice.

II. CAIC's primary practice has centered around setting up and running a storefront, the New World Resource Center, in conjunction with other anti-imperialist groups in the Chicago area, such as the Chicago Area Group on Latin America (CAGLA). The Center concentrates on exposing the international aspects of U.S. imperialism and serves as a focal point for our educational work within the Chicago area. Open 7 hours a day, 7 days a week, the Center contains limited library on anti-imperialist works and an area where pamphlets, books and newspapers are sold. We have conducted educational film and discussion programs two or three times a month. We have established a mail-order network and begun a nation-wide program of correspondence and literature for prisoners. In addition, members of the collective and of the community have set up English and Spanish classes at the Center. To date it is the only anti-imperialist center of its kind in the area, and it draws on a narrow constituency scattered throughout the city.

Through our work in the Center some alliances have been formed with groups outside the storefront, such as the Chicago United Front Against Imperialism, a coalition effort to bring an anti-imperialist focus to anti-war activities. Beyond the Center, we have also extended our activities through periodic writing and distribution of educational leaflets in response to the political and economic moves of the Nixon administration; and we have set up New World Resource Center literature tables at conferences, workshops and schools throughout the city.

Another aspect of our practice has been our attempt to develop and sharpen our own political consciousness through a process of internal political education stemming from practical questions. Over the year we have tried to examine our own class backgrounds and to analyse the political implications of our daily lives from a Marxist perspective. We have also discussed the Health Establishment in the U.S., Mao Tse-tung writings, and have recently begun to study theoretical works which will help us assess our relationships with other movement groups, in particular, the Women's Movement. We have taken political education seriously, but we have had difficulty in setting up a program of study which would relate directly to our practice.

III. In evaluating our practice of the past year we found it necessary to define our purpose more specifically. While in the past we have considered it to be general education about the nature of U.S. imperialism, we have discovered that such a broad formulation led to a dispersion of our activities that has prevented us from doing anything particularly well. We have decided that we need to focus on more direct forms of education that place the burden on our initiative rather than relying on people reaching out to us. To do a more effective job of direct education, we realize that we need to clarify for ourselves our analysis of the international
dimensions of capitalism as well as our role in the anti-imperialist movement. This internal education has become our top priority for the coming year.

Following from this redefinition of purpose and assignment of priority we have decided to set up a series of programs on imperialism in practice around the world and the effect of imperialism on the domestic labor movement and on the struggle of non-whites and women. We intend to enlist the help of other anti-imperialist groups in the city (Black Workers Congress, Women's Union, Iranian Students Association) in organizing and conducting these programs. For the near future we see this as our major activity through the storefront.

IV. In evaluating NAAIC: in terms of internal structure, we think that NAAIC should define a regional and national authority to which all member groups delegate responsibility. The NAAIC steering committee should have the authority to contact other anti-imperialist forces (i.e. explain NAAIC to other groups, to send greetings of solidarity to other conferences) to build NAAIC. We also think the coalition should take some coherent stand on the anti-war movement, including the McGovern and Peace wings.

For the past year we have worked as the NAAIC Newsletter staff. For the future we recommend that the NAAIC Steering Committee be given more responsibility to work with the Newsletter collective in making decisions about the Newsletter content. We also recommend that the Newsletter have one focus per issue which would serve national as well as local purposes of the Coalition. We further feel that the Newsletter staff should have the freedom to collect and analyze news items of particular relevance to an anti-imperialist publication.