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18 October, 1996

RE PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING ORGANISED BY MSF

Dear Colleagues,

The Trade Union MSF has decided to organise a public meeting to discuss the role of the Northern Ireland Political Forum. The union has an on going programme around the need for political representation of working people in Northern Ireland.

Reflecting the diversity of opinion in Ireland it has been difficult to get agreement on the precise form of a public meeting.

The compromise that has been agreed is to hold a meeting under the title,

DOES THE FORUM HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER WORKING PEOPLE?

Speakers from "LABOUR" and the Women's Coalition are to be invited and named on the literature circulated. The tentative date is Thursday 21st November in the evening at Renshawes Hotel.

We will invite members of other political organisations to attend in the audience.

The meeting would be mainly advertised inside MSF.

The choice of speakers is justified because of their non partisan/non sectarian nature, their pro-workers stance, and their newness to political activity. We had originally planned to ask the PUP and UDP, but then the imbalance caused by the absence of SF made some members unhappy. It was clear after long discussion that no formula was satisfactory to everyone. The compromise was accepted on the basis that we needed to make a contribution and could have other activities in the future to redress any imbalance.

Could you please let me know as soon as possible if you will be able to participate. Ideally in a few days! The longer we have to organise and advertise the less the better.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Evans (Member of the Political Sub-Committee MSF)