

# Group challenges Budapest control

27.9.89 P24

Susan Viets in Budapest

**H**UNGARIAN MPS have formed a democratic opposition group to pose the first real challenge to the Communist majority in parliament in 42 years.

The Speaker of the seven-member group is Mr Zoltan Kiraly, a former Communist Party member who was expelled just over a year ago for attending a meeting of the influential opposition group, the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF). Since then, Mr Kiraly has sat in parliament as an independent MP.

All four MDF MPs elected in recent byelections appeared yesterday for the opening session of the new parliament — all as members of the democratic opposition.

Nearly one third of the parliament is made up of independent MPs. Mr Kiraly said yesterday that his group aimed to “help the opposition programme of parliament and to introduce initia-

tives and modifications to laws. We would like to influence the independent MPs and create a common standpoint to act together and vote together in parliament.”

If lobbying among the independents is effective, this group could pose a significant challenge to the Communist majority and help to publicise opposition ideas before multi-party elections next year.

Mr Gabor Roszik, sporting an MDF badge but claiming to represent a wider constituency, yesterday introduced a motion calling for October 23, the date of the 1956 uprising, to be commemorated as a national holiday.

This session of parliament will debate legislation on the election of MPs, the constitutional court system, and party regulations drafted by the opposition and Communists in round table talks.

Yesterday, parliament adopted new laws that guarantee the rights of Hungarians to travel abroad and even to emigrate.

27 September 1989

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