

Party gears up for poll

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Susan Viets in Budapest

THE Hungarian politburo, with elections next year in mind, has undergone an unprecedented metamorphosis, expanding membership from nine to 21 and changing its title to the political management committee.

According to the Prime Minister and praesidium member, Mr Miklos Nemeth, this will help the party to "gain more experience and broader information" on political developments.

Hungary's most radical reformer, Mr Imre Pozsgay, said yesterday that although a real compromise had been brought about inside Hungary's new praesidium, it would be a quartet of "sovereign individuals".

The party's latest political manoeuvres have cobbled together a reform-dominated team with the idea of salvaging party unity and avoiding what Mr Pozsgay, a member of the new praesidium, has termed a "power vacuum" in the month preceding the party congress in October.

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