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**MAYORS AROUND CONFERENCE TABLE:** Budapest Mayor Zoltán Szépvölgyi seen making the inaugural address to the meeting of European mayors in Budapest Sept. 26-28. The scene was the congress hall of the Academy of Sciences in a reconstructed part of historic Buda Castle

# EUROPEAN MAYORS' MEET OPENS IN BUDAPEST

**Budapest (DN) —** A three-day meeting of the mayors of European capital cities opened in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences congress hall. The hall is part of a rebuilt historic house in Buda Castle. Leaders of 28 European cities are attending the conference, which is being staged on the occasion of the centenary of the union of Óbuda, Buda and Pest, into the metropolis of Budapest.

The inaugural session was addressed by Zoltán Szépvölgyi, Chairman of Budapest Metropolitan Council. He outlined the historic development of Budapest and then dealt at length with Budapest's reconstruction, and large-scale development, after World War II. He pointed out that the consultation of the leaders of European capitals enhances the prestige of Budapest's centenary celebrations and, at the same time, usefully serves the broader cooperation between big cities of Europe. This meeting, he said, could provide a stimulus for further fruitful cooperation, and constitute a forum for the clarification, discussion and solution of existing common problems.

Tuesday's session was then addressed by mayors of nine

other European cities: Amsterdam, Andorra, Ankara, Athens, Belgrade, Berlin, Vienna and Berne (in the alphabetical order of these cities' name in Hungarian). In their speeches, the mayors spoke about the development of their respective cities, problems of urban traffic, protection of the environment, and demographic trends. At noon, Budapest Metropolitan Council gave a luncheon in the Hotel Duna Intercontinental in honour of the participants of the mayors' meeting.

In the evening, the Hungarian State Opera presented, at a gala performance, Béla Bartók's three stage pieces: the opera "Prince Bluebeard's Castle", the ballet "The Wood-en Prince", and the pantomime "The Miraculous Mandarin."