

# Weizmann Accepts Israel Presidency

New York, May 17 (AP) — Dr. Chaim Weizmann, 73-year-old scientist and statesman, Monday accepted election as the first president of the council of government of Israel.

Weizmann, who is ill and unable to leave his apartment at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria here, said in a statement that he accepted the election "in a humble spirit" and that he was "deeply grateful."

The statement added that "I pray that the struggle forced upon us will speedily end and will be succeeded by an era of peace, development and prosperity for the people of Israel and those who are waiting to join us in the construction and advancement of the new state.

"I regret that at this moment I am not with our people, but my thoughts and prayers are especially with those who are bearing the brunt and sacrifice of Israel's defense.

"The future of Israel will not be unworthy of those who have fallen. Zion shall be redeemed in justice."