

# World news

## Mideastern leaders may meet

**RABAT, Morocco (AP)** — King Hassan II on Tuesday said he would not meet Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for peace talks until Israel is willing to discuss giving up occupied territories and granting Palestinians self-determination.

The king's latest statement came after Peres on Tuesday welcomed Hassan's apparent offer to hold Middle East peace talks and declared, "We will meet."

In a television interview Monday, Hassan had said that Peres had asked to be invited to Morocco to talk with the king, who is chairman of the 21-nation Arab League and acted as intermediary in the Egypt-Israel negotiations.

The king said he would meet Peres "with great pleasure" if the Israeli leader had a "serious proposal."

But on Tuesday, Hassan told French reporters at the palace his comments should not have been interpreted as an invitation for face-to-face discussions, but was only a general offer to demonstrate the Arab side was "open" to

discussions.

"If Mr. Peres has something concrete to propose, he can put it in an envelope addressed to the secretary-general of the U.N.," Hassan told the reporters.

Also on Tuesday in Tel Aviv, Peres welcomed the king's apparent offer to meet and had said: "We will meet." Such a meeting would represent a breakthrough in efforts to expand Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

Hassan said any eventual talks with Labor Party leaders in the Israeli government would be predicated on the "liberation of the territories occupied by force" by Israel and the "recognition of the Palestinian peoples' right to self-determination."

Hassan said that he "expected much from the Labor Party" in Israel, and added that he hoped the Soviet Union would also be allowed to participate in the search for Middle East peace.

He noted that the coming to power of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "could make things evolve."

## Outlook bleak for nation's homeless

**By The Associated Press**

For tens of thousands of homeless Americans, Thanksgiving dinner will be turkey on a paper plate dished out by charity workers and seasoned by the bitter contrast between cozy holiday images and their own grim prospects as winter sets in.

And with the numbers of homeless on the rise in many cities, shelter workers are worried about how they will accommodate them, particularly if the winter is very cold.

In New York, the city is housing more people now than it did during the coldest part of last winter, said Suzanne Trazoff, spokeswoman for the municipal Human Resources Administration. The city's 19 shelters currently are housing 7,783 men and women, and there are 3,959 families in hotels and other temporary housing, she said.

Last year at this time, the city had 6,781 individuals in 16 shelters and 3,270 families in temporary housing, she said, and at winter's worst, there were 7,600 people in shelters.

"I would say in the past few years there has been a significant increase," said Jackie Edens, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Human Services, which coordinates about 40 shelters. "The term 'new poor' is not a figment of someone's imagination. A lot of people are a paycheck away from being homeless."

Those who work with the homeless cite a number of reasons for the increase, including a shortage of low-cost housing, deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and high unemployment among many groups. They also note that they are seeing more and more single

women with children.

In San Francisco, where the number of homeless appears to have stabilized, "the unusual find... is the dramatic increase in the number of women and children seeking refuge or a hot meal. It's the feminization of poverty," said Jim Buick, deputy director of the mayor's criminal justice council.

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## 175 cartoonists devote strips to hunger themes

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The superheroes, talking animals and harried heroines of the nation's comic pages will put aside their imaginary concerns Thanksgiving Day as 175 leading cartoonists devote their strips to the issue of hunger.

The "Comic Relief" project — conceived by "Doonesbury's" Garry Trudeau and co-sponsored by Charles Schulz ("Peanuts") and Milton Caniff ("Steve Canyon") — is to raise awareness and money to feed the world's hungry.

In addition to broaching the subject of hunger in each of their strips, the cartoonists have asked newspapers to give over some space on the comic pages for ads soliciting donations for USA for Africa.

"The comics page has always been something of a public utility; it is simply there, day in and day out — for 80 years, a totally dependable part of our national culture," the reclusive Trudeau said in a statement.

"What better way to reach people than through characters they've known all their lives? On Thanksgiving Day, 90 million comics readers won't be able to avoid a troubling but hopeful message — that world hunger persists, but there's something we can do about it."

Said Caniff: "We do not expect to save civilization, but we hope to be credited with an assist."

David Stanford, who edits Trudeau's and Schulz's books at Holt Rinehart & Winston and helped coordinate the project, said it now includes almost every major cartoonist, each dealing with the subject in his or her own way.

"Doonesbury" serves up a dinner for the homeless in front of the White House. The title character of "Nancy" says she is starving, but "relatively speaking," Snoopy of "Peanuts" alludes to his empty supper dish.

There are, of course, numerous gags of the sort in which a child offers to make the supreme sacrifice and send his broccoli to foreign children.

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