

metals for industrial use and investment. Taiwan is a major gold buyer and was the world's biggest purchaser in 1988, when it imported 355 tons; in 1991, it imported 111 tons.

- L'industrie manufacturiere de Taiwan aurait besoin d'environ de 450.000 ouvriers de plus. Cette manque d'ouvrier existe depuis 1987.

- Taiwan is setting aside \$1.2 billion for foreign aid this fiscal year. An international cooperation and development foundation will be created to supervise aid and low cost loans to "friendly" countries.

HONG KONG

- The Hang Seng Index plunged 112 points after the most recent airport talks in Beijing failed, sending jitters through the international investment community. Turnover fell from \$6.1 to \$3.5 billion. Despite this fall, turnover in the first half of the year hit HK\$378 billion, passing the full-year 1987 record of \$371 billion. US and UK firms are leading the bull run.

- The PRC newspaper People's Daily has attacked the Hong Kong media for allegedly spreading rumours about China's leaders and domestic policies. The article warned that rumour-mongers should be "punished by law".

- The number of Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong fell below 50,000 for the first time since 1988 as Hanoi agrees to speed up repatriation flights.

- A group of 231 Hong Kong immigrants filed a Cdn\$37 million lawsuit against a Canadian immigration consultant and 11 other parties. It was filed amid growing criticism of Canada's investment immigration policies and the amount represents money that the group lost after investing in Western Canadian shopping centres.

VIETNAM

- Despite ongoing border disputes, trade between Vietnam and China has surged following normalization of their diplomatic relations. Goods worth US\$62.5 million passed through the main border crossing at Lang Son in the four months following last November's summit, compared to \$46 million in the preceding 10 months.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

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- Asia 2010 Conference (Melbourne) - July 19-21
- ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (Manila) - July 24-26
- Canada-China Trade Council Annual General Members' Meeting (Beijing) - November 3-4

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