

Bid to speed up localisation

# 9 top expat officials face the axe

**NINE top expatriate Government officers will bear the brunt of the latest move to speed up localisation.**

The officials, who hold ranks ranging from Secretary to Staff Grade B administrative Officers, who were re-employed after they retired, will not get new contracts when their present ones expire.

This is because of a new policy, which states that all expatriates in the administrative service will have to retire at the age of 57.

This new measure was introduced at the beginning of the year, *The Standard* learnt.

The policy was first made public by the Chief Secretary, Sir David Akers-Jones, on Thursday. In order to speed up localisation, he said, expatriates in this group who have reached the age of 57 will have to retire.

The move is aimed at further localisation of senior posts in the hierarchy to ensure that a clause in the Sino-British Joint Declaration — that the Hongkong Special Administrative Region Government may employ British or other nationals serving in the public service provided they are not appointed heads of departments — is upheld.

The official retirement age is still 55, but the new policy stipulates that expatriates in administrative services can now only apply for an extension on a contractual basis for a maximum of two years.

In the past, they were allowed to stay until they reached the age of 60.

The first batch to be

not hold the appointment much longer.

The second batch to be affected are those born in 1930 who are also now serving on a contractual basis.

They are the Regional Secretary (New Territories) of City and New Territories Administration, Dr James Hayes, Commissioner for Transport, Mr Peter Leeds, Deputy Director of Urban Services, Mr John Heywood, and the Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Selwyn Alleyne.

The policy will also affect two more officers who have reached the retirement age of 55.

They are Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mr John Chambers and Secretary for Security, Mr David Jeaffreson.

This means that in the short space of a year or two, a number of top posts will be vacated.

Among the more important posts that will be vacated is that of the Chief Secretary — currently held by Sir David Akers-Jones, who turns 59 next Monday.

The policy is to be all-encompassing, save in exceptional cases.

Meanwhile, new eligibility rules for extension of service beyond normal retirement age for all civil servants other than those working in the administrative service will be announced in several weeks.

All those who apply for extension of their service from next month will be bound by the new rules.

by  
**Chalina Chung**

affected are nine people who have reached — or will reach — 57 this year.

Under the new policy, they have to retire when their present contracts run out.

They are the Commissioner for Hongkong Affairs in New York, Mr William Dorward, Secretary for Transport, Mr Ian Macpherson, Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Neil Henderson, Secretary for Housing, Mr John Todd, Executive Director of Vocational Training Council, Mr Morris Morgan.

Also on the list are the Postmaster-General, Mr Hugh Ardley, Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Gordon Mortimer, Principal Assistant Financial Secretary, Mr Anthony Savage and the Special Advisor to Umelco, Mr Maurice Sargant.

The new policy means that Mr Todd, who took up the post of Secretary for Housing this month, may