

Economist editor Emmott steps down to write books

BY KATHERINE GRIFFITHS

THE long-standing editor of The Economist, Bill Emmott, is to step down after a 26-year career at the business and current affairs magazine to concentrate on writing books.

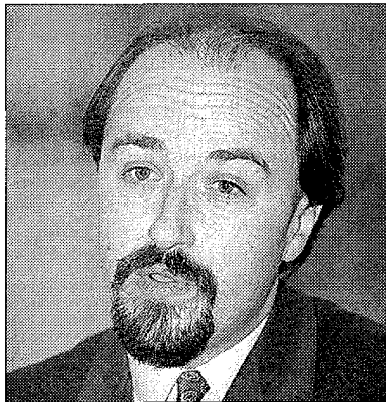
Mr Emmott attempted to head off speculation that he was about to join in the current reshuffle of senior journalism jobs which most recently has included The Spectator appointing Matthew d'Ancona as its new editor, replacing Boris Johnson.

"In due course I may take up other posts but I can't imagine wanting to be editor of any other publication," Mr Emmott said.

In the meantime, Mr Emmott, 49, said he was planning several books on current affairs. A former Tokyo correspondent for The Economist and the author of four books on Japan, Mr Emmott said his first project would be to look at the country's hostility with China and their battle for supremacy in Asia.

Since Mr Emmott became editor in 1993, The Economist has doubled its circulation to just over a million and has seen strong growth in the US, with American readers now making up half of the magazine's total.

The magazine has two clear objectives, according to Mr Emmott. "We could go even further into North America and we need to expand on



Editor Bill Emmott doubled circulation

making The Economist more of an internet publication," he said.

The Economist's board of directors will select a new editor within the next four to six weeks, with the appointment subject to approval by four external trustees.

The Economist said the post would be advertised but added that there were some "very strong" internal candidates.

Contenders may include Emma Duncan, who joined from ITN and is now deputy editor, US editor John Micklethwait, who was recently linked to the Spectator editorship, and Matthew Bishop, American business editor of The Economist.

