

ROYAL PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY

File 1-4-2



Police Headquarters,
KONEDOBU.

15th August, 1969.

CIRCULAR INFORMATION G17/69.

Superintendent of Police,
Officers in Charge, Police Stations,
Officers in Charge, Police Detachments.

SUBJECT: THE USE OF PIDGIN

The following is the text of a letter received from the Administrator and dated 20th July, 1969:-

"Pidgin is a dynamic language. It is continually growing and subject to change. I believe it is time the Administration initiated some changes with regard to a few words which are tending to be regarded as offensive by some of the more educated Papuans and New Guineans. For this reason the Administration should officially discourage their use, and encourage the use of suitable alternatives.

2. In your dealings with Papuans and New Guineans, in official correspondence, and in Administration publications including material for broadcast, it has been decided that the following words will be substituted:-

"Man" instead of "Kanakan".

"Man" instead of "boi" ("boi" to be used in the English context, and when referring to a male child or youth).

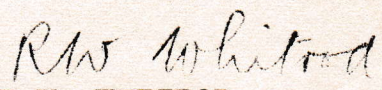
"Gel" or "woman" instead of "meri".

"Man" or "mista" (depending on the context) instead of "masta".

"Domestik" instead of "mankimasta".

3. Will you please bring this matter to the attention of all officers and ensure that my direction is carried out."

Please ensure the widest distribution of this direction and initiate appropriate action within your own area of responsibility.



R.W. WHITROD
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.