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WHITEMAN AND MUNGAS BARTER SYSTEM

Whiteman bible he brought
Mungkas¹ prime land he owned
Now whiteman prime land he owns
While Mungkas bible he has

Run whiteman run
While time still on your side
For who knows
Mungkas may trade with white man
Of tomorrow in exchange for his land
Or he may decide to keep
The white man bible after all

Whiteman tool box he brought
Mungkas copper mine he owned
Now whiteman Bougainville Copper he owns
While Mungkas you are the tools

Whiteman booze he brought
Mungkas shell money he owned
Now white man money he has
While Mungkas you get drunk on booze

Whiteman watch he brought
For he has to be watched by his watch
Mungkas master of his environment
And was contented with his way of life
Now white man he is the boss
While Mungkas you work on time

¹ Buin language meaning 'BLACK'

This poem was written in Arawa in 1976. I had just returned from overseas after being away for two years on study and work. My prophesy came true, for the western culture believe number thirteen (13) is an unlucky number for some people. On May 15, 1989, thirteen years after my poem was written and published in the Arawa Bulletin, the militant landowners effectively shut down the multi-million dollar open cut copper and gold mine at Panguna.

Mrs Linda Molineaux was an expatriate lady who was employed as a Steno Secretary to Jude Thamo. She asked Jude Thamo who the Author was and Jude's reply was 'You don't know him'.