NEWS EXTRA

Cuban envoy rejects racism claims

PROPAGANDA, plain and simple.

This was the Cuban ambassador's response to his countryman Dr Carlos Moore's allegations of institutionalised racism in Cuba.

"Our concerns were not with Moore's presence in Barbados but with the newspaper because of the letter that appeared on March 17 that was addressed to the president of Cuba with very unpleasant words," Pedro Garcia told the **DAILY NATION**.

Professor Moore, a Cuban academic living in exile for over 34 years, was guest lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI) last Wednesday night at the **Errol Barrow Centre For Creative Imagination**.

Prior to his presentation entitled **Race In Cuba: 50 Years After The Revolution**, excerpts from Moore's **Open Letter To Fidel Castro** were published in the **DAILY NATION**.

The ambassador said the sentiments of Moore's article did not reflect the amicable diplomatic relations between Cuba and Barbados.

"**THE NATION** has to be more respectful to our president. The information on the lecture is okay but it's with the letter that I'm very concerned," he said.

Garcia claimed he had no issues with the Cuban-born academic giving his lecture at the UWI.

"It's up to [UWI]. I would prefer it didn't take place . . . . However, the letter is another thing. It was disrespectful and a lie. The majority of things he said are not true, like when he said the majority of Cubans are black. He also said there was a possibility of a reaction from the Blacks but that is simply not true," Garcia said, denying he tried to prevent the lecture on the campus from taking place.

When asked his response to Moore's claims that there were racist policies inherent in the Fidel Castro regime, he said the embassy of the Cuban Republic would be issuing a statement. (MS)

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