

# Tension and discussion follow Cuban lecture

By Khalil Goodman

THE prospect of a possible civil war in the nation of Cuba based on racial tensions provoked mixed reactions of support, outrage and quiet inflection from some Barbadians last week.

This as noted author and political scientist Dr. Carlos Moore warned that racial tensions are set to explode in Cuba.

The lecture entitled "Race in Cuba: 50 Years After The Revolution" was the fifth in the lecture series hosted by the Cultural Studies Programme of the University of the West Indies.

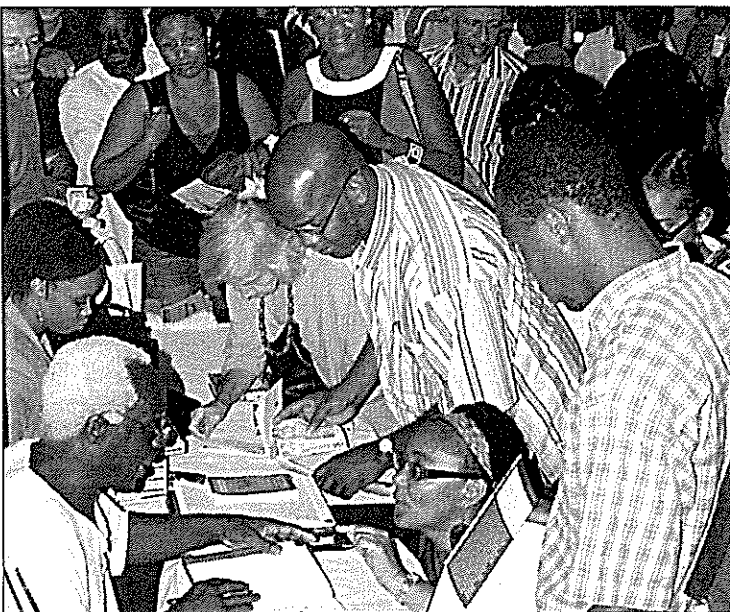
In his lecture, Moore said "a very dramatic and profound shift will soon come to Cuba, probably in the next five years, and we're hoping it won't be too violent." The "we" he was referring to, are black Cuban activists, some of whom he claims are resisting racial discrimination in Cuba from prison.

Moore's lecture entitled "Race In Cuba: 50 Years After The Revolution," resulted in a large audience at the Walcott Warner Theatre as a couple hundred Barbadians and some Cuban nationals living here came to hear Moore's lecture.

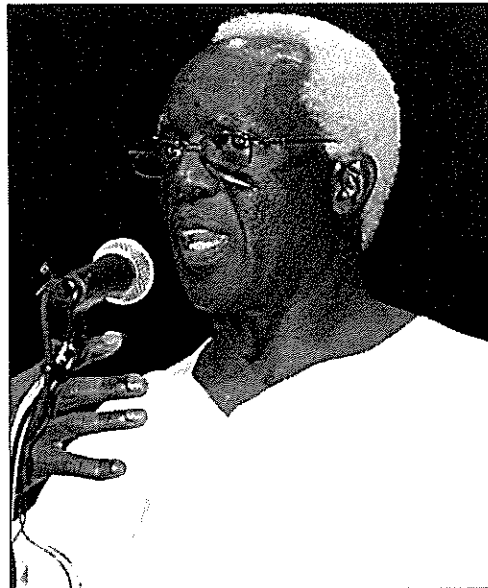
The son of a Barbadian father and a Jamaican mother in Cuba, Moore noted that in pre-revolutionary Cuba the black descendants of West Indians were called "Pinchon" a racial epithet that refers to the child of a vulture, which will consume even blood and bones for food.

"It's a disability to be black in my country. But it was an even greater disability to be black and be born of parents from the Caribbean," he said, adding Cuba's allegiance, along with the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, tended more towards Latin America than the Caribbean.

## Support Marxism



Dr. Carlos Moore (left seated) signs copies of his new book, "Pichon: A Memoir; Race and Revolution in Castro's Cuba."



Cuban exile, Author and political scientist Dr. Carlos Moore speaking last week at the Walcott-Warner theatre at the UWI Cave Hill campus.



A large audience filled the theatre to hear Dr. Carlos Moore speak on race issues in Cuba.

Saying that he had "fundamental differences" with Cubans who have fled Cuba to Miami and now oppose the Cuban Government from there. Moore's lecture and his book, "Pichon: A Memoir; Race and Revolution in Castro's Cuba," charted how he, as a Marxist, fully supported Castro's tri-

umphant entry into Havana in 1957 after defeating Batista's forces. Adding that he hoped that the new Cuba would be a place of equality for all.

However, his public confrontations with the lack of work opportunities for Cubans like himself saw him first imprisoned and then placed in a work

camp before leaving Cuba with the aid of the embassy of Guinea.

To support his claim of the growing racial tension in Cuba, Moore gave unsettling statistics published by the Raul Castro administration on racial marginalisation in Cuba ranging from unemployment, land ownership, ed-

ucation, military reserves, religion and cultural practices.

Moore said many people romanticised the Castro-led revolution because of their anti-American sentiments without knowing the daily realities of racial conflicts in the country, adding that "the voice of black Cubans has not

been heard", citing a silencing of academics and activists by a totalitarian leader.

The emotional question and answer segment, which followed the discussion, saw passionate support and dissension from many members of the audience as well as a book signing.

## Today's Weather

**International Temperature**

Miami: 22.2 C  
New York: 8.9 C  
London: 9 C  
Toronto: 4 C

**Tides**

High: 2:08 a.m. and 1:49 p.m.  
Low: 7:47 a.m. and 8:13 p.m.

**FORECAST**

Fair to partly cloudy with brief scattered showers.

**Rainfall**

Yesterday: Nil  
Month: 14.2mm  
Year: 166.9mm

**Yesterday's Temperatures**

Max: 29.1°C  
Min: 22.1°C

☀️ **SUNRISE** - 6:00 a.m.

🌇 **SUNSET** - 6:09 p.m.