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ISLAS celebrated its fifth anniversary during the month of June 2010. Five years ago, *ISLAS* arrived on the scene as a forum for the expression of ideas, views, and solutions to the basic issues and challenges facing the Afro-Cuban people. The inaugural issue had a beautiful photo of an Afro-Cuban woman smoking a cigar. Why was this photo chosen for our first cover? First, Cuba is well known around the world for its high quality cigars; and secondly, Cuba is also well known for its strong vibrant Afro-Cuban women. We believe these two images reflect the community we wanted to reach.

In the early issues, many of our articles focused on the historical reflection of race by examining the myth of a society free of racial discord. These articles were instrumental in placing the true race issue in its proper historical perspective. Our premier issue was dedicated to one of the most prominent figures in the fight for civil, human, and democratic rights in the United States, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968). In that issue, we reprinted his 1963 "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," in which he chose to respond to critical statements from his fellow clergyman explaining his reason for starting a boycott in Alabama, in 1963. Dr. King stated that "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Since *ISLAS'* inaugural issue, it has expanded its reach, addressing not only Afro-Cuban issues but also challenges faced by all people of African descent, regardless of where. Articles such as "Racism and Football in Great Britain" and "Racism in Russia," both by Dr. Christine Ayorinde, of Great Britain, illustrate that African descendant groups face similar hardships all over the world.

As we move forward towards the next five years, we will commit a formidable portion of the journal to identifying problems and seeking solutions to challenges facing African descendant groups, whether in Great Britain, Russia, Cuba or anywhere. However, we need your help. Let us know what race related challenges you have faced and how they were resolved. Remember, critical insight is gained through peoples' successes as well as their failures.

Happy anniversary to *ISLAS*. We look forward to bringing you many more issues of the journal in the coming years.