

## Federal, local officials to draft earthquake contingency plan

By **MIGLISA CAPO**

Of The STAR Staff

Puerto Rico, which has experienced earthquakes every 50 to 100 years, could soon be due for another earthquake, island seismologists say.

That's why dozens of federal and Commonwealth officials, seismologists, geologists, architects and engineers will gather today in San Juan to discuss earthquake contingency plans.

The gathering is part of an earthquake conference aimed at manufacturers and businesses to be held at the Government Reception Center in Old San Juan.

Topics to be discussed include how to respond to and recuperate from an earthquake; the role of insurance companies;

what to expect from island road, telephone, water and electricity networks; and risks posed by high-rise buildings.

Officials from the California Seismology Security Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Earthquake Engineering Research Center in California and the U.S. Geological Survey will attend the conference. It is sponsored by the local Earthquake Security Commission, organized years ago.

Puerto Rico experienced earthquakes in 1670, 1787, 1867 and 1918. Since then, only tremors have shaken the island. The most recent tremor, in September, measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale. The island's four seismological faults are the origin for the tremors and earthquakes, seismologists said.