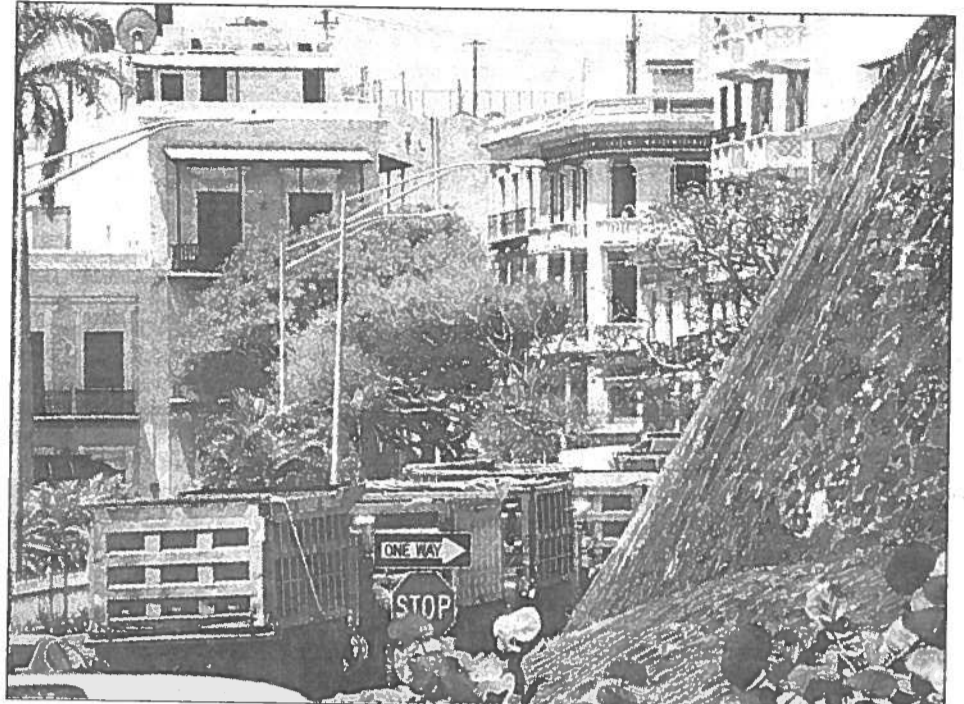


Daily Sun/Mauricio Pascual

Depending on where the quake originates, structures such as the San Juan Cathedral and the El Morro, San Cristóbal and San Jerónimo forts could be damaged, an earthquake expert said Saturday.



Daily Sun/César Silva

Many of the structures of historic, cultural and architectural value in the Old City could be in danger of collapsing if a major earthquake rattles the island.

## Earthquake expert urges study of O.S.J. structures

JOSÉ FERNÁNDEZ COLÓN  
Associated Press

is in a seismically active zone.

The studies should include reviews of design, construction and the nature of the land they're built on, among other matters, she said in a radio interview.

Depending on where the quake originates, structures such as the San Juan Cathedral and the El Morro, San Cristóbal and San Jerónimo forts could be damaged.

"A magnitude 7.0 earthquake [centered] in San Juan would obviously be stronger than one of magnitude 7.0 100 miles to the north of Puerto Rico, which is the most likely scenario for San Juan," she said, adding that a

temblor in 1787 caused cracking in the walls of El Morro.

"If the earthquake is of a lower magnitude or if it's [centered] pretty far from Puerto Rico, [buildings] should resist, but if it another earthquake like the one in 1787 occurs, which may have had a magnitude of 8, then we could have effects on buildings of masonry, as is the case in Old San Juan," she said.

### 60s houses, buildings at risk

Meanwhile, she said, all houses and other buildings constructed before 1960 may

not be able to survive a quake of more than 7 magnitude.

"In Puerto Rico we have to worry about our historical buildings as well as modern structures from the 1950s and '60s, when there was not so much knowledge of how to design and construct for earthquakes," she said.

The last major quake to rock the island was on Oct. 11, 1918, which left 118 dead; another 32 were killed by a tsunami it generated that hit the west coast.

"What's we know is that it's a real [threat] to Puerto Rico," she said.

**PONCE**  
State and municipal authorities should carry out studies to determine whether historic buildings in Old San Juan could survive earthquake with a magnitude of 7 on the Richter scale, Puerto Rico Seismic Network Director Christa Von Hillebrandt said Saturday.

Many of the structures of historic, cultural and architectural value in the Old City could be in danger, she said, and the island

## Governor tells manufacturers he will boost local industry, services

BY CYBERNEWS WIRE SERVICE

Puerto Rico needs to focus on promoting local industries and strengthening the island's service sector, Gov. Fortuño told the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association on Saturday.

"Before looking to foreign investment we have to promote our local industry. But if anyone wants to invest here, we say they're on board," he said in a speech to the group, which was holding its annual convention at the El Conquistador Resort in Fajardo over the weekend.

With a strengthened service sector, it and local industry could work "hand in hand to generate capital and create new jobs in the private sector," he said.

"We can get the one who invests here because he's from here, and the one who has a particular interest in doing business on the island could work and complement each other; then we'll be ensuring not only that we're providing new job opportunities but be able to project ourselves to the world as a business attraction, which has the best offer and the highest quality and best trained employees, to achieve success in their businesses," he said.

A day after thousands took to the streets to protest the governor's economic policies and accused him of catering to big, private interests while cutting public jobs, said work has to continue to complete projects



Courtesy

Gov. Fortuño speaks to Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association convention-goers on Saturday.

like the Port of the Americas transshipment port, the Dorado Triangle, the redevelopment of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, which he said are ambitious efforts that are "crucial to marketing the island at the international level, while we get the Puerto Rican econ-

omy running."

He also emphasized the need to reestablish Puerto Rico's credibility for investors and save its credit rating, and said that the island is "open and ready to do business."

### Benefits of the PPAs

He noted the benefits for the private sector of his proposed public-private alliance for the private sector, along with funds the government will use to benefit the neediest, which will both allow the creation of "hundreds" of jobs through a "multi-million dollar" injection for infrastructure.

He said his plans to speed up the permitting process by putting it one, new agency and a new land-use plan are "crucial" to prevent the bureaucracy that has hurt investment.

"Our aim with small and medium merchants, as well as large industries, is to be able to develop concrete and innovative proposals to improve the business climate in Puerto Rico and make ourselves more competitive ... We want to guarantee to the private sector and those who are interesting in going to seek employment in the sector that it's the best alternative, and that my administration will foment the necessary investment climate so that the first option for our working class be the most desirable and wise alternative," he said.