TECHNICAL REPORT

Study description: **PUERTO RICO**

Fieldwork dates: Between September 15 and October 31, 1995. Data cleaning and entry processes were done by December 20, 1995.

Principal investigators: The investigation was co-directed by Angel I. Rivera Ortiz, Ph.D., who assumed the financial responsibilities and the logistical aspects of the study, and Jorge Benítez Nazario, Ph.D.,who designed the research model and directed the field work.

Sample type: 1,164 questionnaires were effectively administered among able persons 18 years old and older, using the Kish selection method in each household (date of next birthday) and planning up to two more visits in different time schedules or by previous appointment in order to reach the selected person. Interviews were never held on Sundays nor on holidays, nor at any time which would violate the visiting time rules established by tradition and culture (between 8:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. in urban settings and between 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. in rural zones).

The obtained sample was similar to the population universe in educational, economic and demographic terms, according to the data provided by the Federal Census Bureau and the Commonwealth Planning Board.

Fieldwork institute: The Puerto Rican component of the study was co-sponsored by the Dean of Graduate and Research Affairs and the Department of Political Science of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus.

Fieldwork method: A standardized public opinion survey research questionnaire was developed in two stages. First, in order to obtain an adequate conceptualization and definition of the variables included in the internationally designed interview, in agreement with the Puerto Rican political culture, three focus groups were conducted in February of 1995; one in the metropolitan area of San Juan, one in the central highlands and one in the western region of the Island. Second, a pre-test was conducted in the metropolitan area of San Juan, distributing the questionnaire among 100 subjects according their

availability and using age and sex as selection criteria.

The questionnaires were administered in a face to face basis using a structured random sample model in three stages (multi-stage structured random sample). First, all Puerto Rican towns and cities were organized and classified according to their geographical position. and population density. Accordingly, the Island was divided in six sections: north, south, central highlands, east, west and San Juan metropolitan region. Three towns or cities were randomly selected in each section. Second, all residential communities in each of the selected towns or cities were classified in three socio-educational categories (upper, middle and low) using schooling and family income data from the last population census of 1990, and one community was randomly selected in each category. In a third stage, after conducting a thorough "block listing process" in which commercial and inhabited residences were crossed out, random samples were conducted among the households in each selected community using a criterion of $p<.01$, for a total sample of 1,650 (intended contacts).