

FIRST BANCORP /PR/  
Form 8-K  
March 04, 2002

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13  
or 15(d) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 4, 2002

First BanCorp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in this charter)

Puerto Rico

001-14793

66-0561882

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

(Commission File No.)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

1519 Ponce De Leon Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico

00908-0146

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (787) 729-8200

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

First BanCorp announced on February 28, 2002 that a Letter of Intent was signed by and between its wholly-owned subsidiary FirstBank Puerto Rico ( FirstBank ), and J.P. Morgan Chase Bank ( Chase ) whereby FirstBank would acquire Chase's business operations in the United States Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and Barbados. A copy of the joint press release is attached as Exhibit 99 to this Current Report on Form 8 and incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA, FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS

C) Exhibits

99 Press Release dated February 28, 2002

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
the registrant had duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf of the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FIRST BANCORP.

By:           /s/ Annie Astor-Carbonell          

Senior Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer.

Date: March 4, 2002

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