

A. INTRODUCTION.

Early in this study of the potential for Canadian private sector participation in the Philippine mass public housing programme it became apparent that any such market entry would have to involve close participation with the various relevant Philippine Government agencies. Private sector housing largely serves the middle and upper income brackets wherein units are either constructed individually or in relatively small blocks whereas Canada's entry into this market is predicated on the premise that there may be a place for Canadian technology in "assembly line" housing. That restricts the opportunities almost entirely to the public housing sector.

Therefore, this report will focus on the various Government agencies concerned with housing, their programmes and their sources of funding.

For the most part, good cooperation was received from the administrators of the various agencies approached. These are largely a younger, pragmatic group of technocrats, some drawn from the private sector, who have been put into office by the Aquino administration. In marked contrast to their predecessors, they appear to be making a fairly dedicated effort to alleviate the enormous lack of livable housing for the lower income groups. In the process, they are also attempting to streamline the management of the housing sector by eliminating some of the overlapping and duplication of functions within the Government housing administration.

However, at this point there still exists some overlapping and inter-agency rivalry. Not all the agency managers interviewed expressed the same philosophy regarding the most workable solution to the national housing shortage and in some instances, statistics provided by one agency did not coincide with those from another. This report has attempted, to the extent possible, to remove these inconsistencies but some remain and, where noted by the reader, the cause should be understood.