SYNOPSIS

This study deals with the purposes and characteristics of the housing problem, purposes of housing programme and housing requirements at different stages of economic development.

At different stages of economic development, the generator of the housing problem has its peculiar characteristics and require distinctive solutions. The study, therefore, attempts to distinguish these characteristics. The mutual relationship of housing and economic development is an important part of the study in order to understand the influence of economic development on housing and the role of housing in economic development. With the understanding of general characteristics of housing problems, it will be able to identify the housing requirements at different stages of economic development.

The housing programmes and its implementation in Singapore, provide the context and opportunity of this study. Since 1960, two five-year housing programmes were completed and the third is now proceeding towards its mid-term. During this period, also saw Singapore transforming from an economy totally relying on entrepot trade with little industries, into an industrialized state and financial centre. The per capita income gross domestic product had also increased enormously from $1,240 in 1960 to $3,066 in 1971, exceeding
the US $1,000 which is used to classify that a country has reached a developed stage.

The experiences gained in housing development in Singapore in relation to characteristics of the housing problem, housing needs, purposes of the housing programme and the correlationship with economic development, provide the basis for a comparative study. The study also attempts to provide a better understanding of housing process in order to indicate a better approach towards the solution of the housing problem.