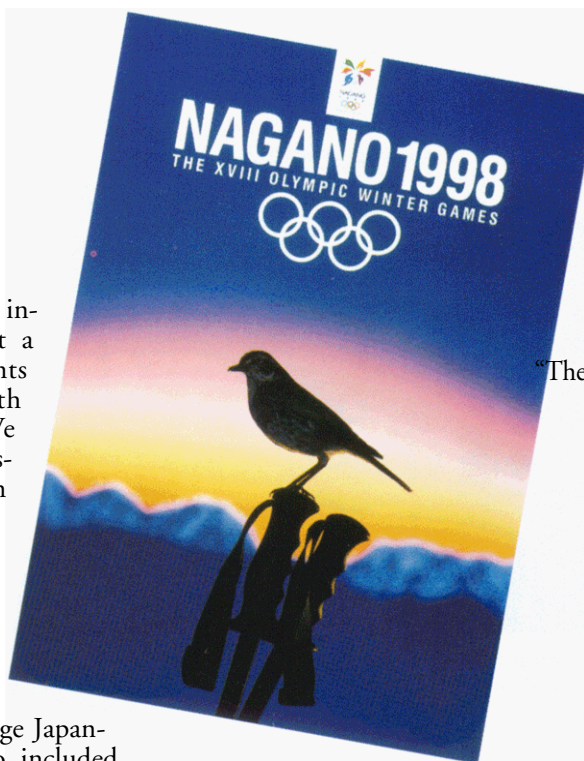


# Nagano takes lessons in Lillehammer

*The organizing committee of the Winter Games in Nagano (MOC) sent a 425-member delegation to Lillehammer to study the running of the Games. In Nagano, they are seeking to reconcile respect for the environment with the interest of sports. As Lillehammer offered his first white-green games, concerns for the environment remained a priority for the organizers of the next games. The IOC approved the recent Olympic venue changes, with the results that the biathlon and cross country skiing competition will now be at Nozawa Onsen, 50 kilometres from Nagano, rather than at Hakuba so as not to disturb the goshawks. The IOC Director General, Mr Makoto Kobayashi also referred to some problems with the location for the men's downhill, after demands by the FIS for the start to be higher up. This would place it in a national park where nature enjoys total protection. NAOC is still negotiating to resolve this question with FIS, which has already persuaded NAOC to move women's downhill and Super-G.*



## JAPANESE OBSERVERS IN LILLEHAMMER

The Japanese delegation intended to study and test a number of specific points necessary to the smooth running of the Games. "We intend to study every aspect of the Games, from the competition sites, method of operation and transport system to the welcome facilities", explained NAOC official Noakichi Nishimura. But the organizers were just a small part of the large Japanese delegation which also included volunteers and leaders of sports bodies. All dressed in the colours of the city of the XVIII Winter Games, they were easily recognizable performing their observation work at the venues. At the press centre, the four Snowlets, their little owl mascots, handed out information brochures, stickers and pins. They were waiting for the great day of the closing ceremony on the 27th February to appear with the Mayor of Nagano, Mr Tasuku Tsukada, who received the Olympic flag from the Mayor of Lille-

hammer, Mr Audun Tron. medals Japanese athletes win. the better the conditions will be for Nagano.

