

At Ruru Lawn Cemetery, the bereaved await the last chapter of a grim story as the burial takes place.

The Prime Minister, the Governor General and Cabinet chiefs are among the mourners. It was a sobering start to 1948 in New Zealand.

The first days of the New Year saw opera singer Margaret Truman back at Washington's White House after her nation-wide concert tour. In her father's office - the President's 26 year old daughter talked to the press about her tour which netted nearly £100,000.

SOUND

Twenty months after the trial of the Japanese warlords opened, (ironically enough, in Tokyo's War Ministry) there was still no sign of the final stages. 25 political and military leaders - including four ex-Prime Ministers - stand accused of crimes against peace and humanity. Outside the court rooms the prisoners camouflage their real feelings with a phoney philosophical veneer.

Central figure is General Hideki Tojo - Prime Minister at the outbreak of war, here with ex-Hovey Sato. Recently Tojo relieved himself of the opinion that war was no crime but rather "a point of view."

When arrested by American troops, Tojo made an unsuccessful suicide attempt. Today - after 30 months of American style rations - Tojo, ex-Foreign Minister Shigemitsu and his fellow prisoners have all gained in weight - some of them more than a stone. Also standing trial are Okonori Kaya Tojo's Finance Minister, and bearded Jiro Minami, former War Minister. General MacArthur wants to sign Japan's peace treaty this year. Before that, the world has an account to settle.