

DUTCH AIR LINE.

Extension to Australia.

HOLLAND RENEWS REQUEST.

The Minister for Defence (Sir Archdale Parkhill) stated yesterday that the Dutch Government, through the British Government, had renewed its request for the extension of the Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) to Australia. The service by Lie Dutch planes at present ends at Batavia.

The request will be discussed by the Federal Cabinet at its meetings in Melbourne on Thursday and Friday.

In Federal circles it is believed that the object of the visit of Major Willem Versteegh, flight-superintendent of the K.N.I.L.M., who has arrived in Australia in one of the company's Douglas planes, is to try to remove the opposition to the extension of the Dutch service to Australia. While it is believed that the feeling of Federal Ministers is that the question is really one for the British Government, the opinion is held in some quarters that the public might benefit if the Dutch company was permitted to extend its air service from Batavia to Darwin.

CONSUL-GENERAL'S STATEMENT.

The Consul-General for the Netherlands (Mr. T. Eijk Schuurman) said last night that the question of a Netherlands airline operating between Australia and the Netherlands Indies had for some time been discussed by the Commonwealth and the Netherlands Governments.

"The Royal Netherlands Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) take no active part in these negotiations," he said, "so that Major Veersteegh cannot have any authority to discuss this question with any politicians in Australia. The discussion between the two Governments have not led to any political differences; they have, on the contrary, always taken place in a most cordial atmosphere."

ARRIVING IN SYDNEY TO-DAY.

BRISBANE, Monday.

The K.N.I.L.M. air liner arrived at Longreach from Darwin at 5.40 o'clock this evening. It will leave Longreach to-morrow morning and arrive at Brisbane about noon. Commander Schotte expects to land at Sydney about 3 p.m.