

Moon men film their own hi

By **ADRIAN BERRY**
Science Staff in Houston, Texas.

STILL colour and black and white photographs taken by the lunarnauts on the moon's surface were described yesterday as "superb, much better than I expected," by Mr Richard Underwood, head of the Manned Spacecraft Centre's precision laboratory, which developed the pictures.

He said: "I had feared that they would be much more blurred, and of not nearly such good quality — because of the speed at which the two men were moving around at Tranquillity Base. I never thought they would take such good pictures as these. I was amazed."

One shot which has particularly pleased space officials was that

of Aldrin standing alone with Armstrong and Eagle brilliantly reflected by the glare of his gold-plated visor, as if Aldrin was holding a mirror to his head. These reflective shots must have been taken deliberately. Few space officials believed that the lunarnauts would turn out to be such superb photographers.

One controversy now permanently settled is that of the appearance of the moon's horizon. It is absolutely flat, and there is no suggestion whatever of a curve—as suggested by all previous photographs which were taken from orbital points above the surface. It would be possible for a creature that lived permanently on the moon to imagine that he lived on a flat world.

The colour movie film of Apollo 11, also released early yesterday, was slightly less

impressive because of its jerky quality, giving the effect of an old silent film. This was because it was taken at one frame per second and is being projected at only 12 frames per second.

Armstrong thought up his famous epigram, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," between the time Eagle landed and the time he emerged through the hatch. This was revealed by Mr John McLeaish, the NASA official who is living with the astronauts in their quarantine chamber.

But one thing slightly annoyed Armstrong. The official transcript of the dialogue at Tranquillity Base misquoted him by omitting the "a" so that he appeared to have said: "That's one small step for man . . . which, as Armstrong pointed out, made much less sense. The transcript has now been rewritten with his statement given correctly.