

IBERIAN CONGRESS

UFO 'dropped organisms'

Lisbon, Monday (AAP-AFP). — Living organisms from outer space were collected and tested in laboratories by scientists in Portugal 19 years ago, according to a Portuguese expert on unidentified flying objects.

The extra-terrestrial organisms were dropped from two unidentified flying objects over southern Portugal on November 2, 1959, Mr Raul Berenguel told the closing session of the first Iberian congress on UFOs in Oporto today.

Mr Berenguel said he had personally observed scientific studies made on the micro-organism for two years.

A picture of what was said to be the extra-terrestrial organism was

published yesterday by the Oporto newspaper *Jornal de Noticias*.

Witnesses said that for four hours, in broad daylight, they had seen two UFOs over the region that dropped a cloud of cotton-like filaments. Organisers of the Oporto congress said the filaments later had turned out to be "living things about four millimetres long, equipped with tentacles ending in a three-pronged fork, and which took up defensive postures".

took up defensive postures".

Mr Berenguel said the micro-organism had shown appreciable strength during laboratory experiments, being able to bear weights up to 350 grams, during the two years it survived after being captured. It reportedly also put out a network of filaments several times,

apparently in an attempt to get out of its glass container.

The organism had undergone gradual fraying and had completely broken up at the end of two years.

He said, "The persons who followed this phenomenon are above all suspicion. They all believe that this living being is utterly unknown to our biology. But they have no doubt that it is indeed a living being".

Mr Berenguel said he was not authorised to reveal the names of the Portuguese scientists and official laboratories which studied the phenomenon.