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**MOST TRUSTED MAN IN AMERICA SAYS UPCOMING ELECTION IS THE MOST  
IMPORTANT SINCE THE CIVIL WAR**

**Santa Barbara, CA (October 27, 2004)** – Walter Cronkite, selected by the American people in the mid 1990s as the most trusted man in America, says that the upcoming election goes beyond the most important of our lifetimes. Cronkite, who was in Santa Barbara, California on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to receive the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 2004 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award, stated, "I think this election is perhaps the most important in the last century, going back perhaps to the Civil War."

Interviewed live by ABC news correspondent Sam Donaldson as part of the Foundation's *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Evening for Peace*, Cronkite said that the election is so important because US foreign policy has taken a 180-degree turn. Cronkite stated, "We have adopted the incredible decision of preemption. With this system of preemption and the unilateral nature of it as practiced by the administration, we have established a foreign policy which is unsustainable in a world that we hope will be governed by peace rather than by war. As a consequence, we are on a very dangerous course not only for the US, but for civilization."

Donaldson asked Cronkite how he would convince the American people that we should obey the rule of international law. Cronkite responded, "It's going to require a lot of education. We've got to improve our education system to the degree that we have a literate society to which you can appeal with a reasonable argument, rather than the passion of the moment or the passion of the past." Cronkite continued, "We have to have a revolutionary change. Thomas Jefferson, Old Tom, once said that 'The nation that expects to be ignorant and free, expects what never can and never will be.' We are on the precipice of being so ignorant that we can not function well as a democracy."

The Distinguished Peace Leadership Award was presented to the former CBS Nightly News anchor for his "uncompromising integrity" in reporting the news to the American people and for his commitment to building a more peaceful world.

For more than 20 years, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has been committed to advancing initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, to fostering the global rule of law, and to building an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization on the Roster in consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Some of the previous recipients of the Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, The Dalai Lama, Jacques Cousteau, King Hussein of Jordan and Jody Williams.

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