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“ The longstanding blockade, and very particularly the special period and the enormous shortage of resources it entailed, combined with the supposed loss of the teaching vocation among our young people, had left profound and seemingly insurmountable scars on such an extraordinary and decisive revolutionary and social task as education”.

References to the original: [Speech at the ceremony for the reopening of 254 schools that were built or refurbished in the country's capital, August 13, 2002](#)

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