NITER KIBEH

(from "The New Whole Foods Encyclopedia" by Rebecca Wood)

This is an Ethiopian recipe. Cooking the flavors of onions, garlic and spices into the ghee makes the medicinal properties more bio-available. It is a great time-saver because your cooking oil is pre-seasonsed!

This is a good cool weather combination of spices and flavors. In hot weather, you may want to eliminate the ginger, nutmeg & cinnamon.

1 pound cultured unsalted organic butter

1 small onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 tsp. minced fresh ginger

1 teaspoon cumin seeds

1 teaspoon coriander seeds

½ teaspoon asefoetida (hing)

½ teaspoon turmeric

1 cinnamon stick piece, about an inch long

1 bay leaf

1/4 teaspoon whole cardamom seeds

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg or mace

Place all ingredients in a saucepan and slowly melt the butter over medium heat. When the butter comes to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for about 30 minutes.

As with regular ghee, wait for the crackling noises to quiet down – then the ghee is ready!